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SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.,.....Appellant/Respondent,

v.

Richeous Smith, Worthy Smith a/k/a Worley Smith, Pearl Terry, Ethel Butler, Tweety Smith a/k/a Tweety Smith Harris, Doreth Smith, Fletcher Lee Harris, Alma Williams Smith, James R. Smith, Loree Smith, Gene A. Smith, Adolf Smith, Janie Sue Smith, Samuel Paul Smith, Ruby Smith Mansell, Buford Mansell, Ethel Mae Smith, Wilson Smith, Patrick R. Smith, Reginald Lamont Smith, Eric Smith, Christine Smith Dawkins, William G. Dawkins, Alma Renee Smith Murry, Sharai Smith Brock, Robert Lee Smith, Melissa F. Smith, Rosalyn Annette Steven, Edith Smith Foster, George Waymon Foster, Bridgette Smith Blassingame, Tara Smith, Waymon Odell Smith, Martha Miller Smith, Calvin Lee Smith, Reece W. Smith, Raymond Eddie Smith, Michael Smith, Odell Smith, Dorothy Smith Pearson, Gary Pearson, Jerome Smith, Jaygo Terry, Ida Terry, Mack Terry, Zone Terry, Leola Terry Smith, James Smith, J. P. Terry, David Brayville Terry, Ettie Pearl Booker, Tecora O. Terry Mason, Odell Mason, Lenora Holley, Dorothy Terry Sheppard, Orangelee Sheppard, Vernon Sheppard, Kasandra Sheppard Jenkins, Karen Sheppard Spates, Theodore Terry, Sr., Gracie Terry, Kelvin F. Terry, Theodore Terry, Jr., Keith Terry, Leola Terry Daniels, Wilford Daniels, Terrance Leslie, Sr., Derrick McGee, Jr., Fred Smith, Jr., Mannell Terry, Patricia Terry, Sheila Terry, Barbara Evans, Leonard Evans, Linda Evans, Thomas Evans, Johnny R. Williams, Connie Evans, Michael Evans, Iola Terry Cox, William Henry Cox, Johnny F. Cox, Joyce A. Smith, Anthony Cox, Alfred Cox, J. Henry Cox, Charlette J. Cox, Charles J. Cox, Michael Cox, Supearl Terry Gilliam a/k/a Supearl Terry Gilliam Miranda, Eugene Gilliam, Terry Gilliam, Jerry Gilliam, Warren Gilliam, Eugene Gilliam, Jr., Melvin Gilliam, Rodney Gilliam, Cindy Gilliam, Shakima Gilliam, Carmella Cottom, Nina Gilliam, Vermell Gilliam Phillips, Shaynise Alston, John Gilliam, Donald Gilliam, Sr., Leunette Gilliam, Donnette Gilliam Ortchere, Leslie Gilliam Peter, Angela Gilliam, Donald E. Gilliam, Raymond T. Gilliam, Juan Miranda, Carmen Miranda a/k/a Carmen Miranda Glavin, John Glavin, Sr., John Glavin, Jr., Miranda Glavin, Jeffrey Glavin, Yolanda Glavin, Ezell Terry, Magaline Terry, Leroy Terry, Kenneth Terry, James (Jimmy) Terry, Pearlie Mae Terry, Winnie L. Terry Anderson, Furman Anderson, Tommy Anderson, Abigail Dodd, Angela Reid, Sandra McDowell, Harold Anderson, Mary Ann Davis, Charlene Peaks, Albert Anderson, Paul Terry, Betty Jo Terry, Donald E. Terry, Deloris I. Terry, Paul A. Terry, Mark G. Terry, Terry Sholer, Jamie Terry, James O.C. Smith, Pauline Smith, Gloria Gore, Paul Smith, Ethel Allen, Desiree Golden, Pauline Workman, Brenda Moulhem, Eric Rogers, Tonya S. Turner, LaTasha D. Terry, and if any of the aforementioned be deceased, then their heirs, successors, devisees, distributees, Administrators, Executors and Personal Representatives, and any party claiming by or through them.....Landowners,

and

The United States of America, acting by and through its agency, the Internal Revenue Service, The United States of America, acting by and through its agency the United States Department of Justice, The South Carolina Department of Revenue, The South Carolina Department of Mental

Health, The State of South Carolina, Bullhead Investments, LLC, Arrow Financial Services, LLC, Sharonview Federal Credit Union, Discover Bank, Zachery Arnold, GE Commercial Finance Business Property Corporation, Midland Funding, LLC, and Greenville County.....Other Condemnees,

and

John Doe and Mary Roe, being fictitious names used to represent all persons and condemnees whose true names are not known, including the heirs, successors, devisees, distributees, Administrators, Executors and Personal Representatives of any of the above named Landowners and Other Condemnees who may be deceased; and also all Condemnees whose names are not known, including heirs, infants, persons under disability and persons who may be in Military service, who claim, or may claim, an interest in the property being condemned, and also all other persons unknown, claiming any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment herein, said property being identified as a portion of Greenville County Tax Map Numbers 0531010102100 and 0531010102101.....Unknown Claimants,

Of whom Ethel Allen; Shaynise Alston; Harold Anderson; Tommy Anderson; Bridgette Smith Blassingame; Sharai Smith Brock; Carmella Cottom; Alfred Cox; Anthony Cox; Mary Ann Davis; William G. Dawkins; Abigail Dodd; Linda Evans; Michael Evans; Thomas Evans; Chavonte Gilliam; Cindy Gilliam; Derrick Gilliam; Donald E. Gilliam, Jr.; John L. Gilliam; Lakisha Gilliam; Latonya Gilliam; Leunette Gilliam; Mattie M. Gilliam; Nina Gilliam; Raymond T. Gilliam; Rodney Gilliam; Shakima Gilliam; Warren Gilliam; Desiree Golden; Gloria Gore; Lenora Holley; Kasandra Sheppard Jenkins; Terrance Leslie, Sr.; Sandra McDowell; Derrick McGee, Jr.; Brenda Moulhem; Alma Rene Smith Murry; Charlene Peake; Leslie Gilliam Peter; Angela Reid; Orangelee Sheppard; Vernon Lee Sheppard; Charles Terry Sholer; Calvin Smith; Eric Smith; Fred Smith, Jr.; Gene A. Smith; James R. Smith; Joyce A. Smith; Loree Smith; Martha Miller Smith; Patrick Smith; Paul Smith; Reginald Lamont Smith; Tara Smith; Karen Regenia Spates; Rosalyn Annette Steven; Betty Jo Terry; Donald E. Terry; Deloris I. Terry; Gracie Terry; Jamie Terry; Keith Terry; Kelvin F. Terry; Leroy Terry; Mark G. Terry; Paul Terry, Jr.; Theodore Terry, Jr.; Porsha Williams; and Pauline Workman are theRespondents/Appellants,

and

Unknown landowners, Reece W. Smith, Raymond Eddie Smith, Michael Smith, Odell Smith, United States of America and the United States of America, acting by and through its agency, the Internal Revenue Service, Midland Funding, LLC, Sharonview Federal Credit Union, SC Department of Revenue, County of Greenville, Arrow Financial Services, LLC, SC Dept. of Mental Health, SC Attorney General, Bullhead Investments, LLC, Zachery Arnold, Ettie Pearl Booker, Ira K. Carroll, Johnny F. Cox, Wilford Daniels, Angela Gilliam, Bianca S. Gilliam, Demetrius J. Gilliam, Jerry Gilliam, Kehiminnie S. Gilliam, Terry Gilliam, John Glavin, Jr., John Glavin, Sr., Jeffrey Glavin, Miranda Glavin, Yolanda Glavin, Terrance Leslie, Terrell Leslie, Teaira Leslie, Donnette Gilliam Ortchere, Jerome Smith, Melissa F. Smith, Michael Smith, James (Jimmy) Terry, Patricia Terry, Pearl Mae Terry, and Sheila Terry are the.....Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2015-001909

The Honorable Charles B. Simmons, Jr.
Greenville County
Trial Court Case No. 2012-CP-23-04064

FINAL BRIEF OF RESPONDENTS/APPELLANTS

Erin Culbertson
KEHL CULBERTSON ANDRIGHETTI, LLC
114 Manly St.
Greenville, SC 29601
864/370-8222 (p) 864/370-8227 (f)
erin@palmettolawfirm.com

David B. Ward
**HORTON, DRAWDY, WARD, MULLINAX
& FARRY, P.A.**
307 Pettigru St.
Greenville, SC 29601
dward@hortonlawfirm.net

Attorneys for the Respondents/Appellants

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STATEMENT OF ISSUES ON APPEAL

1. DID THE TRIAL COURT ERR IN FINDING THAT STATUTORY INTEREST ON AN AWARD OF JUST COMPENSATION IN A CONDEMNATION ACTION ACCRUES ONLY ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TENDER OF PAYMENT AND THE VERDICT AWARDED?

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On June 22, 2012, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (“PNG”) filed a Summons and Notice, Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment in the amount of \$172,200, and Lis Pendens in this condemnation action, which pleadings were subsequently amended on January 31, 2014. (R. pp. 28-76). The tender of \$172,200 was deposited with the Clerk of Court as required by S.C. Code Ann. § 28-2-230, and PNG then took possession of the condemned premises. (R. p. 22). The action was referred to the Honorable Charles B. Simmons, Jr., as Greenville County Master-in-Equity, who conducted a trial to determine just compensation for landowners for the taking of a fifty-foot right of way for a natural gas pipeline by PNG. (R. p. 4). The just compensation trial was held on May 28, 2015. (R. p. 184).

By Order dated June 23, 2015, filed on June 25, 2015, the Court found the amount of just compensation to be \$414,752. (R. p. 15). On June 25, 2015, certain of the landowners, who are named herein as Respondents/Appellants, filed a Motion to Determine Interest Due on Verdict, pursuant to S.C. Code § 28-2-420(A). (R. pp. 154-156.) Respondents/Appellants sought statutory interest on the entire award in the amount of \$99,756.12, as required by S.C. Code Ann. § 28-2-420(A).1 (R. p. 156). A hearing was held on this Motion on July 20, 2015. (R. p. 22). By Order dated August 7, 2015, filed on August 10, 2015, the Court denied interest on the funds on deposit with the Clerk of Court, only allowing interest on the amount of the verdict in excess of the deposit, in the amount of \$58,319.88.2 (R. p. 24).

1 This amount was calculated by multiplying the just compensation award (\$414,752) by the statutory annual interest of 8%, which yields \$33,180.16 per year, or \$90.90 per day. The interest accrued from June 22, 2012, through June 25, 2015, or 1,098 days, for a total of \$99,808.20. Interest earned by the Clerk of Court on Condemnor’s Tender of Payment was \$52.08, which was offset against the interest sought for a total of \$99,756.12.

2 This amount represents interest on the difference between the Tender of Payment and the just compensation award (\$414,752 - \$172,200 = \$242,552). Annual interest at 8% on this amount is \$19,404.16, or \$53.16 per day for 1,098 days amounts to \$58,371.96. Condemnor’s offset of \$52.08 yields the Trial Court’s figure of \$58,319.88.

Respondents/Appellants filed a Motion to Reconsider, Alter, or Amend the Court's Order dated August 7, 2015, which Motion was denied on August 17, 2015. (R. pp. 157-170; R. p. 26). Respondents/Appellants timely filed and served their Notice of Appeal on PNG on September 15, 2015. (R. pp. 171-177).

FACTS

PNG's action was brought pursuant to the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act (S.C. Code § 28-2-10 *et seq.*). (R. p. 51). All parties stipulated at trial that the date of the taking was June 22, 2012. (R. p. 5). Specifically, PNG condemned a fifty-foot right of way, under and across which PNG installed a high pressure natural gas transmission pipeline. (R. p. 5). The total acreage of the property condemned by PNG amounts to 2.515 acres, as well as a small strip of property totaling 0.747 acre which was severed from the larger parcel by the right of way (the 2.515 acres and the 0.747-acre severed parcel are hereinafter referred to as the "Right of Way" or "ROW"). (R. p. 5).

The larger parcel in question consists of a 73.6-acre tract located in the vicinity of Highway 14 and Interstate 85 in Greenville County, at the end of Rock Road (the 73.6-acre tract is hereinafter referred to as the "Subject Property"). (R. p. 4). The last recorded instrument conveying title in and to the Subject Property was a deed from Ezell Smith to Landowners Richeous Smith, Worthly Smith, Pearl Terry, Ethel Butler, and Tweety Smith (the "Original Landowners"), dated July 25, 1928, and recorded on July 26, 1928, in the Register of Deeds Office for Greenville County in Deed Book 86, at Page 299. (R. p. 51). None of the Original Smith Landowners are currently alive, nor were any of their estates probated in the public records of Greenville County. (R. pp. 52-55).

Of the Landowners named in this action, one hundred and one (101) are surviving and have or may claim an interest in the Subject Property (the "Surviving Landowners"). (R. pp. 52-60). Certain of the Surviving Landowners are represented by counsel; others are not and have made no appearance in this matter. Specific ownership interests of each of the Surviving Landowners are not known at this time; further, the interests were not known at the time of the filing of the action

nor at any point through the pendency of the action.

ARGUMENTS

I. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN FINDING THAT CONDEMNNEES WERE ENTITLED TO AN AWARD OF STATUTORY INTEREST ON ONLY THE FUNDS IN EXCESS OF CONDEMNOR'S INITIAL TENDER OF PAYMENT.

A. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN ITS INTERPRETATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEP'T OF TRANSP. V. FAULKENBERRY IN FORMULATING ITS OPINION.

In the Order Determining Interest Due on Verdict (the "Interest Order"), the Trial Court ruled that Landowners were not entitled to interest on funds previously deposited with the Clerk of Court by Condemnor. (R. p. 23). The stated bases for this ruling were the applicable sections of the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act (the "Act"), and the opinion of the Court of Appeals in South Carolina Dep't of Transportation v. Faulkenberry, 337 S.C. 140, 522 S.E.2d 822 (Ct. App. 1999). (R. p. 23). Faulkenberry involved a condemnation action in which the entire funds on deposit were drawn down by agreement; therefore, no interest was thereafter allowed on that sum. That ruling is irrelevant to the present circumstances, where no funds were drawn down.

As briefly described above, in Faulkenberry, the condemnee, by agreement of the condemnor, was allowed to access and draw down all the funds deposited by the condemnor with the clerk of court, in the amount of \$863,574, while litigation was pending. Faulkenberry, at 144. Such a draw down is partially sanctioned by Section 28-2-480 of the Act, which allows a condemnee to access fifty percent (50%) of the funds on deposit with the clerk of court upon written application; in Faulkenberry, the remaining fifty percent was only permitted to be accessed by means of an extra-judicial settlement between the parties. South Carolina Code Ann. § 28-2-480.

When the Faulkenberry jury returned a verdict of \$2,396,100 as the award of just compensation, the condemnee sought an award of statutory interest on the whole verdict amount

pursuant to Section 28-2-420(A) of the Act. Faulkenberry, at 144. The lower court ruled that the condemnee was only entitled to interest on the difference between the award and one-half of the initial tender amount. Id., at 145. The Court of Appeals disagreed, however, and ruled that the condemnee was not entitled to interest on any funds drawn down from the initial tender. Id., at 147.

Specifically, the Faulkenberry court held that “interest under S.C. Code Ann. § 28-2-420 does not accrue on any amount paid to the condemnee after its receipt.” Faulkenberry, at 147. Further, the Court of Appeals went on to clarify:

SCDOT notes Section 28-2-420 does not address the amount of interest to be paid the condemnee when he draws down deposited funds. The statute specifically states, “Interest accruing on funds on deposit with the clerk of court must be offset against the interest computed pursuant to this section.” We believe this statement implies interest shall accrue only on such funds as “*are on deposit with the clerk of court.*”

Id., at 152 (emphasis in original).

As the Faulkenberry holding is limited to the question of whether interest is allowed on funds drawn down by the condemnee, Faulkenberry is inapposite to the instant matter, as no funds were or could have been drawn down by the Landowners. Faulkenberry even went so far as to establish a formula by which interest awards should be computed:

- (1) Interest at the rate of 8% per year upon the award of just compensation, accruing from the date of filing through the date of judgment;
- (2) Interest accruing on funds tendered to the clerk of court is offset against the interest calculated above; and
- (3) Interest shall abate for a 20-day period following the date of judgment, after which the judgment (if unpaid) accrues interest at the statutory post-judgment rate.

Faulkenberry, at 152. Application of the Faulkenberry calculation would result in a reversal of the Trial Court’s decision in this matter.

Further, a closer reading of Faulkenberry supports Respondents'/Appellants' position herein. In reciting the history of the case, the opinion reveals that the condemnor conceded that the condemnee was entitled to interest on the entire verdict for the time that funds had not been drawn down.³ It is therefore clear that the condemnor, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, construes the statute to provide that so long as funds are on deposit with the clerk of court, the statutory 8% interest continues to accrue in favor of the condemnee.

The Faulkenberry court includes the following, regarding statutory instruction:

In interpreting a statute, this court's primary function is to ascertain the intention of the legislature. In re Vincent J., 333 S.C. 233, 509 S.E.2d 261 (1998). Statutes should be construed with regard to the whole system of law of which they form a part. Roche v. Young Bros., Inc., 332 S.C. 75, 504 S.E.2d 311 (1998) (citing 82 C.J.S. Statutes § 362 (1953)). A statute as a whole must receive a practical, reasonable, and fair interpretation consonant with the purpose, design, and policy of the lawmakers. TNS Mills, Inc. v. South Carolina Dep't of Revenue, 331 S.C. 611, 503 S.E.2d 471 (1998). In construing a statute, this court will reject any interpretation that leads to an unreasonable result. Busby v. Moore, 330 S.C. 201, 498 S.E.2d 883 (1998). *Further, construction of a statute by an agency charged with its administration will be accorded the most respectful consideration and will not be overruled absent compelling reasons.*

Faulkenberry, at 147-48 (emphasis added).

SCDOT falls squarely within the court's definition of an agency charged with the administration of the Act; therefore, SCDOT's construction of the Act, as described in Faulkenberry, should be given great deference and not overruled. In short, because SCDOT construes the Act to require it to pay interest on funds while on deposit with the clerk of court, the court in the instant matter should do the same. The analysis in Faulkenberry addresses the question of what happens if there is a draw-down, and whether interest could be earned thereafter on the

³ "SCDOT asserted that under S.C. Code Ann. § 28-2-420 (1991), Faulkenberry was entitled to interest on the entire verdict for only 64 days: from May 27, 1994, the date of the original condemnation notice, until July 29, 1994, when the one hundred percent drawdown was paid pursuant to the consent order." Faulkenberry, at 144-45.

funds drawn down. That is not the case before the court here and therefore Faulkenberry is irrelevant to our inquiry.

B. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN FAILING TO APPLY THE CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE OF SECTION 28-2-420(A).

Section 28-2-420(A) of the Act reads in full as follows:

A condemnor shall pay interest at the rate of eight percent a year upon sums found to be just compensation by the appraisal panel or judgment of a court to the condemnee. This interest shall accrue from the date of filing of the Condemnation Notice through the date of verdict or judgment by the court. Interest accruing on funds on deposit with the clerk of court must be offset against the interest computed pursuant to this section. Interest shall not accrue during the twenty-day period commencing upon the date of verdict or order of judgment. If the judgment is not paid within the twenty-day period, interest at the rate provided by law for interest on judgments must be added to the judgment. Thereafter, the entire judgment shall earn interest at the rate provided by law for interest on judgments.

S.C. Code Ann. § 28-2-420(A) (2014 Supp.)

The language of the statute is clear and unambiguous; there is no requirement to draw down funds, nor is there any exception to interest accruing on the entire amount where no funds are drawn down. Courts may not interpret or change the meaning of a clear and unambiguous statute. In re Vincent J., at 233. Further, “the courts are bound to give effect to the expressed intent of the legislature.” Hodges v. Rainey, 341 S.C. 79, 85, 533 S.E.2d 578 (2000), quoting Norman J. Singer, Sutherland Statutory Construction § 46.03 at 94 (5th ed. 1992).

A brief history of the Act can be found in Faulkenberry. Prior to 1986, no statutory provision existed requiring interest on condemnation awards to be paid by the South Carolina highway department; however, during that same period, both the Public Works Eminent Domain Law and the State Authorities Eminent Domain Act provided for the payment of interest. Faulkenberry, at 150. Because two other statutes did include statutory interest, it was not a

legislative oversight for the highway department to be excluded from such a requirement. Id.; see also South Carolina State Highway Dep't v. Southern Ry., 239 S.C. 1, 5, 121 S.E.2d 236, 238 (1961) (“The amount of just compensation to be paid can only be determined under the provisions of an act of the Legislature, by whose authority only procedural legislation may be provided whereby private property may be condemned for public use, together with the means by which just compensation is to be paid for the taking”).

Subsequently, in 1987, the South Carolina Legislature enacted the South Carolina Eminent Domain Procedure Act to establish uniform procedures for the condemnation of property by the state, its political subdivisions, and private entities, so as to minimize the costs of litigation. Faulkenberry, at 150. As quoted above, the Act clearly requires the payment of interest on any award of just compensation; such interest, in fact, is considered an element of just compensation. Id., at 149, citing State Roads Comm'n v. G.L. Cornell Co. Sav. & Profit Sharing Trust, 85 Md. App. 765, 584 A.2d 1331 (1991).

As Section 28-2-420(A) is clear and unambiguous, and history shows a clear intent to require the payment of interest on an award of just compensation, and because the Act contains no carve-out or distinction for funds drawn down pursuant to Section 28-2-480, the Trial Court erred in interpreting the Act to mean that a condemnee is not entitled to interest on funds paid to the Clerk of Court.

C. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN RELYING ON WINDHAM V. HONEYCUTT.

As argued above, it is Respondents'/Appellants' position that a proper reading and application of the holding in Faulkenberry would result in a reversal of the Trial Court's Interest Order. Further, however, the Trial Court referenced certain language cited in Faulkenberry, found originally in the case of Windham v. Honeycutt, 290 S.C. 60, 348 S.E.2d 185 (Ct. App. 1986).

Specifically, the Trial Court refers to the concept of “fruits of possession,” in holding that the fruits of possession (meaning a party’s right to access funds deposited with the court) and the full statutory interest are mutually exclusive. Interest Order, p. 2. However, the Windham case bears no relation to the instant matter and should not be used as a guide in determining Respondents’/Appellants’ statutory right to interest.

Windham was a contract dispute, involving accounting and specific performance claims – entirely common law in nature and governed by no statutes. Windham v. Honeycutt, 290 S.C. 60, 348 S.E.2d 185 (Ct. App. 1986). In Windham, the seller of a piece of property breached her contract and refused to convey the property; the buyer was granted specific performance and an award of an accounting of profits that could have been earned during the pendency of litigation. Id., at 62. The Windham court determined that while the buyer was entitled to the fair rental value of the property during the period of dispute (the “fruits of possession”), the seller was entitled to offset interest that could have been earned had the purchase price been timely paid. Id. Such a ruling, according to the Windham court, was “in the nature of an accounting, by which a court of equity seeks to place the parties in the same position as if the conveyance had been made when due.” Id.

The Faulkenberry court cited to Windham as a “close analogy,” holding that “[a]s with an accounting, a condemnor must place the condemnee in the same position pecuniarily as if the taking had not occurred.” Faulkenberry, at 155. The Faulkenberry court then went on to compare its condemnee to the Windham purchaser. Id. In other words, a condemnee drawing down all the funds on deposit with the clerk was analogous to a purchaser retaining the purchase price rather than paying it to his seller. Such situation, although logical, is simply not the situation at hand. The condemnees in the within matter did not draw down *any* funds from the clerk. In fact, the

condemnees in the within matter logistically could not have exercised their rights under Section 28-2-480, but even assuming for the sake of argument that they could have, they simply did not. Section 28-2-480 is permissive, not mandatory, and to extrapolate otherwise leads to a punitive result, clearly not intended by the Legislature in Section 28-2-420(A).

D. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN ASSUMING THAT THE CONDEMNED COULD HAVE ACCESSED THE ENTIRE TENDER OF PAYMENT ON DEPOSIT WITH THE COURT.

As described above, the Trial Court's ruling in the Interest Order was premised entirely on the fact that the Landowners in this action could have accessed the funds deposited with the clerk of court, whether in part (via Section 28-2-480) or in whole (via settlement/consent of Piedmont Natural Gas). Such a premise ignores the simple fact that with over a hundred surviving Landowners, any draw-down would be impossible. Further, any draw-down is permissive, not mandatory. Most problematic is the fact that the Interest Order punishes Respondents/Appellants for not reaching an extrajudicial settlement by denying them an express statutory benefit. Under the terms of the Interest Order, the condemnor is entitled to credit for all interest earned on all funds on deposit, and the condemnees are not entitled to any interest on any funds on deposit. Such a result is inconsistent with the clear language of the Act.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons stated herein, the Court should reverse the judgment of the Master-in-Equity and award Respondents/Appellants the full statutory prejudgment interest to which they are entitled, in the amount of \$99,756.12, as well as post-judgment interest accruing through the date of payment.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Culbertson (SC Bar # 68271)
KEHL CULBERTSON ANDRIGHETTI, LLC
114 Manly St.
Greenville, SC 29601
864/370-8222 (p) 864/370-8227 (f)
erin@palmettolawfirm.com

David B. Ward
**HORTON, DRAWDY, WARD, MULLINAX
& FARRY, P.A.**
307 Pettigru St.
Greenville, SC 29601
dward@hortonlawfirm.net

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Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.,.....Appellant/Respondent,

v.

Richeous Smith, Worthly Smith a/k/a Worley Smith, Pearl Terry, Ethel Butler, Tweety Smith a/k/a Tweety Smith Harris, Doreth Smith, Fletcher Lee Harris, Alma Williams Smith, James R. Smith, Loree Smith, Gene A. Smith, Adolf Smith, Janie Sue Smith, Samuel Paul Smith, Ruby Smith Mansell, Buford Mansell, Ethel Mae Smith, Wilson Smith, Patrick R. Smith, Reginald Lamont Smith, Eric Smith, Christine Smith Dawkins, William G. Dawkins, Alma Renee Smith Murry, Sharai Smith Brock, Robert Lee Smith, Melissa F. Smith, Rosalyn Annette Steven, Edith Smith Foster, George Waymon Foster, Bridgette Smith Blassingame, Tara Smith, Waymon Odell Smith, Martha Miller Smith, Calvin Lee Smith, Reece W. Smith, Raymond Eddie Smith, Michael Smith, Odell Smith, Dorothy Smith Pearson, Gary Pearson, Jerome Smith, Jaygo Terry, Ida Terry, Mack Terry, Zone Terry, Leola Terry Smith, James Smith, J. P. Terry, David Brayville Terry, Ettie Pearl Booker, Tecora O. Terry Mason, Odell Mason, Lenora Holley, Dorothy Terry Sheppard, Orangelee Sheppard, Vernon Sheppard, Kasandra Sheppard Jenkins, Karen Sheppard Spates, Theodore Terry, Sr., Gracie Terry, Kelvin F. Terry, Theodore Terry, Jr., Keith Terry, Leola Terry Daniels, Wilford Daniels, Terrance Leslie, Sr., Derrick McGee, Jr., Fred Smith, Jr., Mannell Terry, Patricia Terry, Sheila Terry, Barbara Evans, Leonard Evans, Linda Evans, Thomas Evans, Johnny R. Williams, Connie Evans, Michael Evans, Iola Terry Cox, William Henry Cox, Johnny F. Cox, Joyce A. Smith, Anthony Cox, Alfred Cox, J. Henry Cox, Charlette J. Cox, Charles J. Cox, Michael Cox, Supearl Terry Gilliam a/k/a Supearl Terry Gilliam Miranda, Eugene Gilliam, Terry Gilliam, Jerry Gilliam, Warren Gilliam, Eugene Gilliam, Jr., Melvin Gilliam, Rodney Gilliam, Cindy Gilliam, Shakima Gilliam, Carmella Cottom, Nina Gilliam, Vermell Gilliam Phillips, Shaynise Alston, John Gilliam, Donald Gilliam, Sr., Leunette Gilliam, Donnette Gilliam Ortchere, Leslie Gilliam Peter, Angela Gilliam, Donald E. Gilliam, Raymond T. Gilliam, Juan Miranda, Carmen Miranda a/k/a Carmen Miranda Glavin, John Glavin, Sr., John Glavin, Jr., Miranda Glavin, Jeffrey Glavin, Yolanda Glavin, Ezell Terry, Magaline Terry, Leroy Terry, Kenneth Terry, James (Jimmy) Terry, Pearlmae Mae Terry, Winnie L. Terry Anderson, Furman Anderson, Tommy Anderson, Abigail Dodd, Angela Reid, Sandra McDowell, Harold Anderson, Mary Ann Davis, Charlene Peaks, Albert Anderson, Paul Terry, Betty Jo Terry, Donald E. Terry, Deloris I. Terry, Paul A. Terry, Mark G. Terry, Terry Sholer, Jamie Terry, James O.C. Smith, Pauline Smith, Gloria Gore, Paul Smith, Ethel Allen, Desiree Golden, Pauline Workman, Brenda Moulhem, Eric Rogers, Tonya S. Turner, LaTasha D. Terry, and if any of the aforementioned be deceased, then their heirs, successors, devisees, distributees, Administrators, Executors and Personal Representatives, and any party claiming by or through them.....Landowners,

and

The United States of America, acting by and through its agency, the Internal Revenue Service, The United States of America, acting by and through its agency the United States Department of Justice, The South Carolina Department of Revenue, The South Carolina Department of Mental

Health, The State of South Carolina, Bullhead Investments, LLC, Arrow Financial Services, LLC, Sharonview Federal Credit Union, Discover Bank, Zachery Arnold, GE Commercial Finance Business Property Corporation, Midland Funding, LLC, and Greenville County.....Other Condemnees,

and

John Doe and Mary Roe, being fictitious names used to represent all persons and condemnees whose true names are not known, including the heirs, successors, devisees, distributees, Administrators, Executors and Personal Representatives of any of the above named Landowners and Other Condemnees who may be deceased; and also all Condemnees whose names are not known, including heirs, infants, persons under disability and persons who may be in Military service, who claim, or may claim, an interest in the property being condemned, and also all other persons unknown, claiming any right, title, estate, interest in or lien upon the real estate described in the Condemnation Notice and Tender of Payment herein, said property being identified as a portion of Greenville County Tax Map Numbers 0531010102100 and 0531010102101.....Unknown Claimants,

Of whom Ethel Allen; Shaynise Alston; Harold Anderson; Tommy Anderson; Bridgette Smith Blassingame; Sharai Smith Brock; Carmella Cottom; Alfred Cox; Anthony Cox; Mary Ann Davis; William G. Dawkins; Abigail Dodd; Linda Evans; Michael Evans; Thomas Evans; Chavonte Gilliam; Cindy Gilliam; Derrick Gilliam; Donald E. Gilliam, Jr.; John L. Gilliam; Lakisha Gilliam; Latonya Gilliam; Leunette Gilliam; Mattie M. Gilliam; Nina Gilliam; Raymond T. Gilliam; Rodney Gilliam; Shakima Gilliam; Warren Gilliam; Desiree Golden; Gloria Gore; Lenora Holley; Kasandra Sheppard Jenkins; Terrance Leslie, Sr.; Sandra McDowell; Derrick McGee, Jr.; Brenda Moulhem; Alma Rene Smith Murry; Charlene Peake; Leslie Gilliam Peter; Angela Reid; Orangelee Sheppard; Vernon Lee Sheppard; Charles Terry Sholer; Calvin Smith; Eric Smith; Fred Smith, Jr.; Gene A. Smith; James R. Smith; Joyce A. Smith; Loree Smith; Martha Miller Smith; Patrick Smith; Paul Smith; Reginald Lamont Smith; Tara Smith; Karen Regenia Spates; Rosalyn Annette Steven; Betty Jo Terry; Donald E. Terry; Deloris I. Terry; Gracie Terry; Jamie Terry; Keith Terry; Kelvin F. Terry; Leroy Terry; Mark G. Terry; Paul Terry, Jr.; Theodore Terry, Jr.; Porsha Williams; and Pauline Workman are theRespondents/Appellants,

and

Unknown landowners, Reece W. Smith, Raymond Eddie Smith, Michael Smith, Odell Smith, United States of America and the United States of America, acting by and through its agency, the Internal Revenue Service, Midland Funding, LLC, Sharonview Federal Credit Union, SC Department of Revenue, County of Greenville, Arrow Financial Services, LLC, SC Dept. of Mental Health, SC Attorney General, Bullhead Investments, LLC, Zachery Arnold, Ettie Pearl Booker, Ira K. Carroll, Johnny F. Cox, Wilford Daniels, Angela Gilliam, Bianca S. Gilliam, Demetrius J. Gilliam, Jerry Gilliam, Kehiminnie S. Gilliam, Terry Gilliam, John Glavin, Jr., John Glavin, Sr., Jeffrey Glavin, Miranda Glavin, Yolanda Glavin, Terrance Leslie, Terrll Leslie, Teaira Leslie, Donnette Gilliam Ortchere, Jerome Smith, Melissa F. Smith, Michael Smith, James (Jimmy) Terry, Patricia Terry, Pearlmae Terry, and Sheila Terry are the.....Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2015-001909

The Honorable Charles B. Simmons, Jr.
Greenville County
Trial Court Case No. 2012-CP-23-04064

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CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Final Brief of Respondents/Appellants complies with Rule 211(b), SCACR.

This the 31st day of May, 2016.



Erin Culbertson (SC Bar # 68271)
KEHL CULBERTSON ANDRIGHETTI, LLC
114 Manly St.
Greenville, SC 29601
864/370-8222 (p) 864/370-8227 (f)
erin@palmettolawfirm.com

David B. Ward
**HORTON, DRAWDY, WARD, MULLINAX
& FARRY, P.A.**
307 Pettigru St.
Greenville, SC 29601
dward@hortonlawfirm.net

Attorneys for Respondents/Appellants

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.,.....Appellant/Respondent,

v.

Richeous Smith, Worthly Smith a/k/a Worley Smith, Pearl Terry, Ethel Butler, Tweety Smith a/k/a Tweety Smith Harris, Doreth Smith, Fletcher Lee Harris, Alma Williams Smith, James R. Smith, Loree Smith, Gene A. Smith, Adolf Smith, Janie Sue Smith, Samuel Paul Smith, Ruby Smith Mansell, Buford Mansell, Ethel Mae Smith, Wilson Smith, Patrick R. Smith, Reginald Lamont Smith, Eric Smith, Christine Smith Dawkins, William G. Dawkins, Alma Renee Smith Murry, Sharai Smith Brock, Robert Lee Smith, Melissa F. Smith, Rosalyn Annette Steven, Edith Smith Foster, George Waymon Foster, Bridgette Smith Blassingame, Tara Smith, Waymon Odell Smith, Martha Miller Smith, Calvin Lee Smith, Reece W. Smith, Raymond Eddie Smith, Michael Smith, Odell Smith, Dorothy Smith Pearson, Gary Pearson, Jerome Smith, Jaygo Terry, Ida Terry, Mack Terry, Zone Terry, Leola Terry Smith, James Smith, J. P. Terry, David Brayvelle Terry, Ettie Pearl Booker, Tecora O. Terry Mason, Odell Mason, Lenora Holley, Dorothy Terry Sheppard, Orangelee Sheppard, Vernon Sheppard, Kasandra Sheppard Jenkins, Karen Sheppard Spates, Theodore Terry, Sr., Gracie Terry, Kelvin F. Terry, Theodore Terry, Jr., Keith Terry, Leola Terry Daniels, Wilford Daniels, Terrance Leslie, Sr., Derrick McGee, Jr., Fred Smith, Jr., Mannell Terry, Patricia Terry, Sheila Terry, Barbara Evans, Leonard Evans, Linda Evans, Thomas Evans, Johnny R. Williams, Connie Evans, Michael Evans, Iola Terry Cox, William Henry Cox, Johnny F. Cox, Joyce A. Smith, Anthony Cox, Alfred Cox, J. Henry Cox, Charlette J. Cox, Charles J. Cox, Michael Cox, Supearl Terry Gilliam a/k/a Supearl Terry Gilliam Miranda, Eugene Gilliam, Terry Gilliam, Jerry Gilliam, Warren Gilliam, Eugene Gilliam, Jr., Melvin Gilliam, Rodney Gilliam, Cindy Gilliam, Shakima Gilliam, Carmella Cottom, Nina Gilliam, Vermell Gilliam Phillips, Shaynise Alston, John Gilliam, Donald Gilliam, Sr., Leunette Gilliam, Donnette Gilliam Ortchere, Leslie Gilliam Peter, Angela Gilliam, Donald E. Gilliam, Raymond T. Gilliam, Juan Miranda, Carmen Miranda a/k/a Carmen Miranda Glavin, John Glavin, Sr., John Glavin, Jr., Miranda Glavin, Jeffrey Glavin, Yolanda Glavin, Ezell Terry, Magaline Terry, Leroy Terry, Kenneth Terry, James (Jimmy) Terry, Pearlie Mae Terry, Winnie L. Terry Anderson, Furman Anderson, Tommy Anderson, Abigail Dodd, Angela Reid, Sandra McDowell, Harold Anderson, Mary Ann Davis, Charlene Peaks, Albert Anderson, Paul Terry, Betty Jo Terry, Donald E. Terry, Deloris I. Terry, Paul A. Terry, Mark G. Terry, Terry Sholer, Jamie Terry, James O.C. Smith, Pauline Smith, Gloria Gore, Paul Smith, Ethel Allen, Desiree Golden, Pauline Workman, Brenda Moulhem, Eric Rogers, Tonya S. Turner, LaTasha D. Terry, and if any of the aforementioned be deceased, then their heirs, successors, devisees, distributees, Administrators, Executors and Personal Representatives, and any party claiming by or through them.....Landowners,

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the.....Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2015-001909

The Honorable Charles B. Simmons, Jr.
Greenville County
Trial Court Case No. 2012-CP-23-04064

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SC Court of Appeals

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that she has served the Final Brief of Respondents/Appellants on counsel of record and parties in this action by depositing a copy of the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, on May 31, 2015, addressed as follows:

Kevin Dunlap
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP
100 Dunbar St., Suite 206
Spartanburg, SC 29306
kevindunlap@parkerpoe.com
Attorney for Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

A. Lance Crick
US Attorney's Office
55 Beattie Place, Suite 700
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for the United States of America and the United States of America, acting by and through its Agency, the Internal Revenue Service

Michael S. Chambers
121 Manly St., Suite B
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Wylie W. Clarkson
PO Box 287
Columbia, SC 29202
Attorney for Midland Funding, LLC

Paul A. McKee, III
Hanover Title Agency, Inc.
PO Box 2196
Spartanburg, SC 29304
pmckee@hanovertitle.com
Attorney for Reece W. Smith, Raymond Eddie Smith, Michael Smith, and Odell Smith

Charles N. Griffin, III
PO Box 19806
Raleigh, NC 27619
Attorney for Sharonview Federal Credit Union

Kelley Y. Woody
PO Box 6432
Columbia, SC 29260
kwoody@sc.rr.com
Guardian ad Litem for unknown Landowners

Mary E. Campbell
SC Department of Revenue
PO Box 12265
Columbia, SC 29211
Attorney for SC Department of Revenue

Jeffrey D. Wile
County Attorney's Office

301 University Ridge, Suite 2400
Greenville, SC 29601
Attorney for County of Greenville

Ettie Pearl Booker
21 Cotswold Terrace
Taylors, SC 29687
Landowner/Condemnee

Johnny F. Cox
6420 Guildford Rd.
Rockford, IL 61107
Landowner/Condemnee

Terry Gilliam
47 Myers St.
Buffalo, NY 14211
Landowner/Condemnee

Jerry Gilliam
5 Myers St.
Buffalo, NY 14211
Landowner/Condemnee

Donnette Gilliam Ortchere
444 Emslie St.
Buffalo, NY 14212
Landowner/Condemnee

Angela Gilliam
445 Emslie St.
Buffalo, NY 14212
Landowner/Condemnee

James (Jimmy) Terry
105 Bailey Rd.
Greer, SC 29651
Landowner/Condemnee

Pearlie Mae Terry
PO Box 6942
Greenville, SC 29606
Landowner/Condemnee

John Glavin, Sr.
21 Murray Terrace

Tonawanda, NY 14150
Landowner/Condemnee

Jeffrey Glavin
21 Murray Terrace
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Landowner/Condemnee

Yolanda Glavin
21 Murray Terrace
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Landowner/Condemnee

Miranda Glavin
21 Murray Terrace
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Landowner/Condemnee

John Glavin, Jr.
196 Moore St.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Landowner/Condemnee

Kenneth Terry
117 Sunnyglen Dr.
Greer, SC 29561
Landowner/Condemnee

Eric Rogers
10 Fort Dr.
Simpsonville, SC 29681
Landowner/Condemnee

Tonya S. Turner
3494 Pinegate Trail
Snellville, GA 30039
Landowner/Condemnee

LaTasha D. Terry
90 Preakness Dr.
Alpharetta, GA 30022
Landowner/Condemnee

Ira K. Carroll
1348 Cochran Crossing
McDonough, GA 30252

Landowner/Condemnee

Demetrius J. Gilliam
4328 Thyme Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89910
Landowner/Condemnee

Kehiminnie S. Gilliam
4328 Thyme Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89910
Landowner/Condemnee

Bianca S. Gilliam
4328 Thyme Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89910
Landowner/Condemnee

Terrance Leslie, Jr.
204 Herman St.
Buffalo, NY 14211
Landowner/Condemnee

Terrell Leslie, Sr.
204 Herman St.
Buffalo, NY 14211
Landowner/Condemnee

Teaira Leslie
204 Herman St.
Buffalo, NY 14211
Landowner/Condemnee

Jerome Smith
232 Sunnyglen Dr.
Greer, SC 29651
Landowner/Condemnee

Wilford Daniels
144 Sweet Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14212
Landowner/Condemnee

Patricia Terry
211 Eagle St., #701
Buffalo, NY 14204
Landowner/Condemnee

Sheila Terry
211 Eagle St., #701
Buffalo, NY 14204
Landowner/Condemnee

Melissa F. Smith
142 Wilson Creek Rd.
Iva, SC 29655
Landowner/Condemnee

The Hon. Alan Wilson
SC Attorney General
PO Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

John H. Magill
SC Dep't of Mental Health
2414 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29202

Trace M. Dillon
Arrow Financial Services, LLC
1130 Hurricane Shoals Rd., Suite 600
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Ahmad S. Washington
Arrow Financial Services, LLC
1211 E. Morehead St.
Charlotte, NC 28204

Richard L. Jackson
Bullhead Investments, LLC
1315 Westbrook Plaza Dr., Suite 100
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

CT Corporation System
Discover Bank
2 Office Park Ct., Suite 103
Columbia, SC 29223

CT Corporation System
GE Commercial Finance Business Property
Corporation
2 Office Park Ct., Suite 103
Columbia, SC 29223

Zachery Arnold
460 Durham Rd.
Greer, SC 29650

Dated this 31st day of May, 2016.



Erin Culbertson
Kehl Culbertson Andrighetti, LLC