

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Atmos Energy Corporation's Tariff)
Revision Designed to Consolidate Rates and)
Implement a General Rate Increase for Natural Gas) Case No. GR-2006-0387
Service in the Missouri Service Area of the Company.)

**JOINT PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
AND JOINT MOTION REQUESTING ADOPTION
OF CERTAIN OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

COMES NOW Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos"), and on behalf of itself and the parties to this proceeding, including the Commission Staff, Office of the Public Counsel, Noranda, and Hannibal Regional Hospital, and respectfully states as follows:

1. On April 7, 2006, Atmos filed with the Commission proposed tariff sheets bearing an effective date of May 7, 2006, which are designed to produce a gross annual revenue increase of \$ 3.4 million for natural gas service provided to retail customers in Atmos' Missouri service area

2. On April 13, 2006, the Commission issued its Suspension Order And Notice, Order Setting Hearings, and Order Directing Filing ("Suspension Order"). Among other things, the Commission in its Suspension Order scheduled an early prehearing conference on May 17, 2006, and directed that the parties file a proposed procedural schedule on or before May 24, 2006.

3. On May 17, 2006, the Commission convened an early prehearing conference. As a result of the discussions at the early prehearing conference, the parties respectfully propose that the Commission adopt the following procedural schedule in this case:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Company Filing	Friday, April 7, 2006
Rate Design Technical Conference	Wednesday, June 14– 15 (10 AM and 8:30 AM, respectively)
Revenue Requirement Direct	Wednesday, September 13
Rate Design Direct	Tuesday, September 26
Public Hearings	September 26, 28 & 29
Settlement Conference	October 2 - 6
List of Issues; List of Witnesses; Order of Cross	October 13
Simultaneous Rebuttal (all issues)	Friday, October 27
Simultaneous Surrebuttal	Monday, November 13
Prehearing Briefs	Wednesday, November 22
Evidentiary Hearing	November 27 – December 8
Simultaneous Briefs	Friday, January 12, 2007
Order Date	February 22
Operation of Law Date	March 4

4. During the early prehearing all parties also agreed to the following matters and request that these agreements be reflected in the Commission's Order setting the procedural schedule:

(a) All parties agree that they will provide copies of testimony, exhibits and pleadings to other counsel by electronic means and in electronic form essentially concurrently with the filing of such testimony, exhibits or pleadings.

(b) An effort should be made to not include in data request questions either highly confidential or proprietary information. If either highly confidential or proprietary

information must be included in data request questions, the highly confidential or proprietary information should be appropriately designated as such pursuant to the Protective Order issued in the case.

(c) Counsel for each party is to receive electronically from each other party, a copy of all data requests served by that party on another party in the case – if a party desires the response to a data request that has been served on another party, the party desiring a copy of the response must request a copy of the response from the party answering the data request – in this manner the party providing a response to a data request has the opportunity to object to providing the response to another party and is responsible for copying information purported to be highly confidential or proprietary – thus, if a party wants a copy of a data request response by Atmos to a Staff data request, the party should ask Atmos, not the Staff, for a copy of the data request response unless there are appropriate reasons to direct the discovery to the party originally requesting the material.

(d) Until the October 27 filing of rebuttal testimony, the response time for all data requests is 20 calendar days, and 10 calendar days to object or notify that more than 20 calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information. After October 27, the response time for all data requests becomes 10 calendar days to provide the requested information, and 5 business days to object or notify that more than 10 calendar days will be needed to provide the requested information.

(e) Workpapers that were prepared in the course of developing a witness' testimony should not be filed with the Commission but should be submitted to each party within 2 business days following the filing of the particular testimony. Workpapers containing highly confidential or proprietary information should be appropriately marked. Since workpapers for certain parties may be voluminous and generally not all parties are interested in receiving workpapers or a complete set of workpapers, a party shall specifically notify another party that they are interested in receiving certain workpapers or a complete set of workpapers. If such workpapers have been prepared in either Excel or Word format, the workpapers will be provided on a disk or through e-mail to the other parties.

(f) In the Suspension Order, the Commission reserved January 3-4, 2007, for a possible true-up hearing. During the early prehearing conference, the parties agreed to submit their respective recommendations regarding the necessity of a true-up hearing on September 13, 2006, as part of the revenue requirement direct testimony filing. The non-utility parties have not had sufficient time to perform their audits, discovery procedures, and other analysis that are necessary to be able to make a recommendation regarding whether or not a true-up process is warranted to reflect the appropriate revenue/expense/rate base relationship. Atmos also agrees to submit to the Staff and interested parties an update of its direct revenue requirement and rate design calculations, as well as the necessary data to update the test year to June 30, 2006, by mid-August, 2006.

WHEREFORE, in response to the Commission's Suspension Order issued on April 13, 2006, Atmos Energy Corporation files this proposed procedural schedule and list of agreements on behalf of itself and the other parties to Case No. GR-2006-0387.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James M. Fischer

James M. Fischer, MBN 27543

email: jfischer@aol.com

Larry W. Dority, MBN 25617

email: lwdority@sprintmail.com

Fischer & Dority, P.C.

101 Madison Street, Suite 400

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Telephone: (573) 636-6758

Facsimile: (573) 636-0383

Douglas C. Walther, MBN 32266

Associate General Counsel

Atmos Energy Corporation

P.O. Box 650205

Dallas, Texas 75265-0205

Email: doug.walther@atmosenergy.com

Telephone: (972) 855-3102

Attorneys for Atmos Energy Corporation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Recommendation has been hand-delivered, emailed or mailed, First Class mail, postage prepaid, this 24th day of May, 2006, to the Office of the Public Counsel: opcservice@ded.mo.gov, the General Counsel of the Missouri Public Service Commission: bob.berlin@psc.mo.gov, gencounsel@psc.mo.gov, Rob Fulton: rfulton@charterinternet.com, David Woodsmall: dwoodsmall@fcplaw.com, Stuart W. Conrad: stucon@fcplaw.com.

/s/ James M. Fischer

James M. Fischer