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July 17, 2001

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
Governor State Office Building
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Hand Delivery

FILED²
JUL 17 2001
Missouri Public
Service Commission

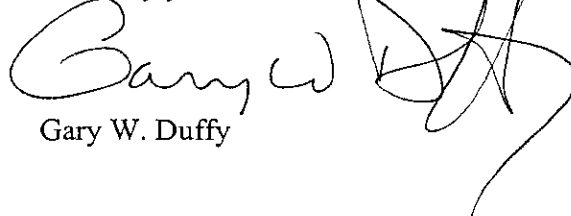
RE: Associated Natural Gas Company
Case Nos. GR-96-227, GR-97-191, GR-98-399, GR-99-392, and GR-2000-573

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding please find an original and thirteen copies of a "Settlement Agreement and Release" and a "Motion for Expedited Treatment" in the above referenced cases. As the settlement document and motion explain, the parties have reached a unanimous agreement on a means of settling all or portions of all of these cases, and request that the Commission approve the settlement on or before July 31, 2001, so as to avoid further scheduled litigation activities and commence the process to implement a bill credit to the customers of the former Associated Natural Gas Company's Southeast Missouri district.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,


Gary W. Duffy

Enclosures
cc w/encl:

Doug Micheel, Office of Public Counsel
Lera Shemwell, Office of General Counsel
Tim Schwarz, Office of General Counsel
Jim Fischer
Ricky Gunter
Jeff Dangeau

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

FILED²

JUL 17 2001

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the matter of Associated Natural Gas)
Company's Tariff Revisions to be)
Reviewed in its 1995-1996 Actual Cost)
Adjustment.)

Case No. GR-96-227

In the matter of Associated Natural Gas)
Company's Tariff Revision to be)
Reviewed in its 1996-1997 Actual Cost)
Adjustment.)

Case No. GR-97-191

In the matter of Associated Natural Gas)
Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment)
Factors to be Reviewed in its 1997-1998)
Actual Cost Adjustment.)

Case No. GR-98-399

In the matter of Associated Natural Gas)
Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment)
Factors to be Reviewed in its 1998-1999)
Actual Cost Adjustment.)

Case No. GR-99-392

In the matter of Atmos Energy)
Corporation's Purchased Gas Adjustment)
to be Reviewed in its 1999-2000 Actual)
Cost Adjustment)

Case No. GR-2000-573

MOTION FOR EXPEDITED TREATMENT

COMES NOW Associated Natural Gas Company ("ANG"), by and through its counsel,
and for its Motion for Expedited Treatment, respectfully states as follows:

1. In a filing accompanying this Motion, ANG, the Staff of the Commission ("Staff"), the Office of the Public Counsel ("Public Counsel"), and Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos"), have submitted to the Commission a "Settlement Agreement and Release." That document reflects a unanimous settlement which has been achieved between the parties to the above-captioned proceedings. The parties wish the Commission to approve that Settlement

Agreement and Release as soon as possible. The settlement also involves action by the Commission involving cases which are pending in the Circuit Court of Cole County, Missouri. The earlier the action by the Commission in approving the Settlement Agreement and Release, the earlier that bill credits can be applied to ANG's former customers in Southeast Missouri under the terms of the settlement.

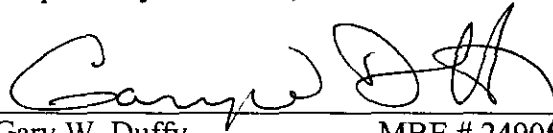
2. As the Settlement Agreement and Release notes, the parties have recommended that the Commission issue an order approving the Settlement Agreement and Release on or before July 31, 2001, in order to avoid further litigation expenses.

3. In accordance with 4 CSR 240-2.080(17), ANG states that the date by which the parties desire Commission action is any date on or before July 31, 2001. Earlier action by the Commission would be preferable. The harm to be avoided by such quick Commission action is the needless incurrence of expense by the Commission and ANG's counsel to prepare for and orally argue one of the subject cases in the Circuit Court of Cole County, which argument is presently set for 9 a.m. on August 1, 2001. Although the Commission and ANG have postponed this oral argument before, the Circuit Court is unwilling to postpone it further. This pleading is being filed as soon as it could have given that the Settlement Agreement and Release was only executed late yesterday afternoon.

4. Counsel for Public Counsel, Atmos and the Staff have reviewed and consented to the filing of this motion. There are no other parties involved in the referenced cases.

WHEREFORE, ANG, on behalf of Public Counsel, the Staff, and Atmos, request that the Commission expedite its consideration of the Settlement Agreement and Release and issue an order approving same on or before July 31, 2001.

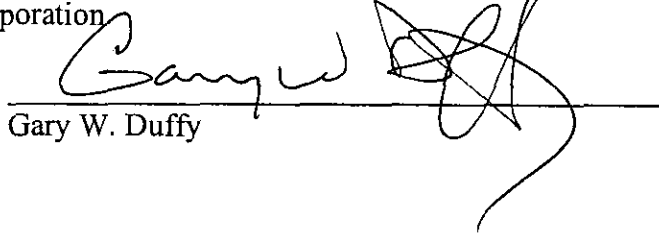
Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Service

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was hand delivered this 17th day of July, 2001, to the Office of the Public Counsel, the Office of the General Counsel, and counsel for Atmos Energy Corporation



Gary W. Duffy

ANGglobalsetlmtexp/gdmydocs/wp8