

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
JEFFERSON CITY  
September 29, 2000**

**CASE NO: GR-99-392**

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**Enclosed find certified copy of ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).**

**Sincerely,**



**Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

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

In the Matter of Associated Natural Gas	)	
Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment	)	<u>Case No. GR-99-392</u>
Factors to be Reviewed in its 1998-1999	)	
Actual Cost Adjustment	)	

**ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND**

Associated Natural Gas Company (ANG) filed its tariff on October 15, 1999, with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) to establish purchase gas adjustment factors to be effective November 1, 1999. ANG also filed revised actual cost adjustment (ACA) transition cost and refund factors. ANG filed changes for each of its three operating districts, i.e., Butler, Kirksville and Southeast Missouri.

On August 1, 2000, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed its recommendation, stating that it had, *inter alia*, conducted an audit of ANG's billed revenues and gas costs for the period of September 1, 1998, to August 31, 1999, and reviewed the reliability of ANG's distribution system. Part of Staff's recommendation was that ANG continue to report capacity and demand statistics, including the following information: for each of the ANG districts/pipeline service areas, estimate, and submit with the 1999/2000 ACA filing, the reserve margin for the 1999/2000 ACA period and for three to five years beyond that.

ANG filed its response to the Staff's recommendation on September 8, 2000. One of ANG's main issues is that the Missouri properties of ANG have been sold to Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos). Thus, while ANG agreed that it has obligations to the Commission it must fulfill with regard to the time when it was operating its facilities within the state of Missouri, it did

not appear meaningful to ANG for it to be required to perform the reporting requirements when ANG has no control over how Atmos will operate the properties. ANG suggested that the Staff may wish to reconsider the need for ANG to perform any of the reporting requirements recommended by Staff in light of the fact that Atmos has owned and operated the former ANG properties since June 1, 2000. If the tasks are appropriate, argued ANG, then they are the responsibility of Atmos, not ANG.

On September 18, 2000, Staff filed its motion for an extension of time to file Staff's response to ANG's response. Staff, according to that pleading, is discussing the issue of whether ANG or Atmos should undertake the reporting requirements with both ANG and Atmos. For that reason, Staff asked for an extension of time, until October 18, 2000, to formulate its response in light of the ongoing discussions.

Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-2.080(16) states: "Parties shall be allowed not more than ten (10) days from the date of filing in which to respond to any pleading unless otherwise ordered by the commission."

Because Staff's motion for extension of time to file its response did not indicate the position of either ANG or the Office of Public Counsel, the Commission was required to wait ten days from the date of the filing of Staff's pleading to issue this order.

The Commission will extend the time for the filing of Staff's response.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission shall file its recommendation no later than October 18, 2000.

2. That this order shall become effective on October 9, 2000.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Hardy Roberts".

**Dale Hardy Roberts**  
**Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge**

(S E A L)

Bill Hopkins, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 29th day of September, 2000.

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and  
I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City,  
Missouri, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 2000.



*Dale Hardy Roberts*  
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Dale Hardy Roberts  
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge