

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
March 21, 2000**

CASE NO: GM-2000-312

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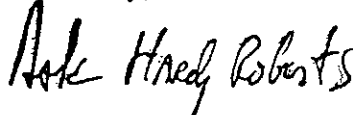
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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

Uncertified Copy:
Thomas M. Byrne
720 Olive Street
St. Louis, Mo 63101

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
Atmos Energy Corporation and Arkansas)
Western Gas Company, d/b/a Associated)
Natural Gas Company, for an Order)
Authorizing the Sale and Transfer of)
Certain Assets of Associated Natural Gas)
Company Located in Missouri to Atmos)
Energy Corporation and Either Authorizing)
the Transfer of Existing Certificates of)
Public Convenience and Necessity or)
Granting a New Certificate of Public)
Convenience and Necessity to Atmos Energy)
Corporation in Conjunction with Same.)

Case No. GM-2000-312

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR EXTENSION
OF TIME TO FILE SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

On March 13, 2000, the Commission granted a Motion for Extension of Time to File Surrebuttal Testimony filed by Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) and Arkansas Western Gas Company, d/b/a Associated Natural Gas Company (ANG). That order granted Atmos and ANG's request that the procedural schedule be modified to make surrebuttal testimony due on March 22, rather than March 15. Atmos and ANG requested the additional time to allow the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

On March 20, Atmos and ANG filed a second Motion for Extension of Time to File Surrebuttal Testimony. This motion again indicates that the parties are pursuing settlement negotiations and asks that the date established for the filing of surrebuttal testimony and the list of

issues be put off until March 29. The motion also suggests that position statements by the parties be filed no later than April 3. The motion states that the other parties have indicated that they do not oppose this request.

The Commission has considered Amos and ANG's motion and concludes that continued settlement negotiations should be encouraged. Therefore, the request to extend the time for filing surrebuttal testimony and the list of issues will be granted. However, the parties are warned that this delay may necessitate a similar delay in the currently scheduled hearing dates, as the filing of position statements on April 3 would not allow the Commission sufficient time to properly prepare for a hearing on April 4 and 5.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Motion for Extension of Time to File Surrebuttal Testimony is granted.
2. That Surrebuttal Testimony shall be filed by all parties on March 29, 2000, by 3:00 p.m.
3. That the List of Issues shall be filed by Staff on March 29, 2000, by 3:00 p.m.
4. That Statements of Position shall be filed by all parties on April 3, 2000, by 3:00 p.m.

5. That this order shall become effective on March 29, 2000.

BY THE COMMISSION



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

(S E A L)

Morris L. Woodruff, Regulatory
Law Judge, by delegation of
authority pursuant to 4 CSR
240-2.120(1), (November 30, 1995)
and Section 386.240, RSMo 1994.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 21st day of March, 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 21st day of March 2000.

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

