

**STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
JEFFERSON CITY  
December 31, 2001**

**CASE NO: GR-2000-573**

**Office of the Public Counsel**  
P.O. Box 7800  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**James M. Fischer**  
Fischer & Dority, P.C.  
101 Madison Street, Suite 400  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
**Donna Campbell**  
Rate Analyst  
Associated Natural Gas Company  
1001 Sain Street, PO Box 3578  
Fayetteville, AR 72702

**General Counsel**  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Gary W. Duffy**  
**Brydon, Swearengen & England**  
312 E. Capitol Ave., PO Box 456  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
**Jeffrey L Dangeau**  
Associated Natural Gas  
PO Box 1408  
Fayetteville, AR 72702

**Enclosed find certified copy of an 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 Atmos Energy Corporation's Purchased     )  
Gas Adjustment to be Reviewed in its 1999-2000             ) **Case No. GR-2000-573**  
Actual Cost Adjustment   )

**ORDER SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND REQUIRING**  
**FILING OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND**  
**A REPORT TO STAFF**

On November 1, 2001, the Commission's Staff filed its recommendation and memorandum presenting seven financial adjustments affecting three of the operating districts of Atmos Energy Corporation as part of Staff's review of the company's 1999-2000 Actual Cost Adjustment (ACA) filing. Staff's adjustments also take into account the sale of Associated Natural Gas Company's assets to Atmos. The adjustments are listed collectively under recommendation number 1 in Staff's memorandum.

Staff also recommended that Atmos be required to report certain additional information by February 28, 2002, related to the company's planning, assumptions and preparation to serve its end user customers prudently. The Commission assumed that Staff required this information to be presented in a report directly to Staff. This information was requested under recommendation number 2 in Staff's memorandum.

Staff asked that the Commission order Atmos to respond within 30 days. The Commission issued its Order Directing Response on November 7, 2001. Atmos filed its response on December 6, 2001. Atmos disagreed with one adjustment in Staff's

recommendation number 1 and asked that Staff reconsider its position. Atmos acknowledged that other adjustments were needed but proposed changes to the adjustments presented by Staff in recommendation number 1. Atmos indicated that it would comply with the Staff's recommendation number 2 to submit additional data and information to Staff in a report no later than February 28, 2002. Atmos urged the Commission to allow the parties additional time to resolve what it characterized as relatively minor differences.

The parties are in agreement on recommendation number 2. This report will be ordered. The issues in this case have been defined under recommendation number 1 and a prehearing conference and procedural schedule are necessary and appropriate to ensure a prompt resolution. At the prehearing conference, the parties or their representatives should be prepared to discuss the nature of any discovery each will conduct and the interval necessary for its completion; the number of witnesses each expects to call at hearing; the number and nature of any exhibits each expects to offer at hearing; and the anticipated length of the hearing. The parties or their representatives should also be prepared to discuss the current status of settlement negotiations. It is expected that the prehearing conference will provide an opportunity for the parties to further pursue settlement discussions.

The parties shall jointly file a proposed procedural schedule. The proposed procedural schedule shall establish dates for the filing of a list of the issues to be determined by the Commission, statements by the parties of their position on each such issue, and prepared testimony. The proposed procedural schedule shall also include a date for the filing of a list of the witnesses to be called on each day of hearing, the order in

which they shall appear and the order of cross-examination agreed upon by the parties. The proposed procedural schedule shall also propose dates for the hearing of this matter.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. That Atmos Energy Corporation report certain additional information by February 28, 2002, related to the company's planning, assumptions and preparation to serve its end user customers prudently to be presented in a report presented directly to the Commission's Staff. This information shall be reported with recommendation number 2 in Staff's memorandum.

2. That a prehearing conference shall be held on January 23, 2002, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference shall be held at the Commission's offices at the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, Room 305. The Governor Office Building is a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the prehearing conference should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the prehearing conference.

3. That the parties shall jointly prepare and file a proposed procedural schedule no later than February 1, 2002.

4. That this order shall become effective on January 10, 2002.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dale Hardy Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "R".

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

(SEAL)

Keith Thornburg, Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 31st day of December, 2001.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> day of Dec. 2001.**

*Dale Hardy Roberts*

---

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

