

**STATE OF MISSOURI
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
JEFFERSON CITY
January 24, 2002**

CASE NO: GR-2000-573

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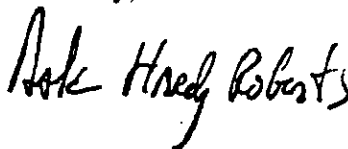
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Enclosed find certified copy of an ORDER in the above-numbered case(s).

Sincerely,



Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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 DIRECTING FILING OF SECOND STAFF RECOMMENDATION
AND RESPONSES OR PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

On January 23, 2002, the Commission convened a prehearing conference to review the status of this case. The parties represented were the Atmos Energy Corporation, Staff and the Office of the Public Counsel. The remaining issues in this case address financial adjustments proposed by Staff 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 review addresses the period September 1, 1999; to August 31, 2000. However, for the nine-month period up to June 1, 2000, Associated Natural Gas Company (ANG) owned these operating districts. A settlement approved by the Commission on November 27, 2001, resolves the issues presented with ANG. The Commission is left to deal with the adjustments affecting Atmos and the period June 1 to August 31, 2000.

On January 22, 2002, ANG filed a pleading informing the Commission that it had complied with the settlement agreement and requesting that this case be closed and a new case opened to address the issues related to Atmos.

At the prehearing conference, the parties presented that Atmos would soon complete its requirements under the settlement agreement regarding certain refunds and that the parties were near an agreement on the remaining issues concerning Atmos. The parties indicated that a second Staff recommendation or settlement could be filed promptly to which all parties would likely have no objection. If this occurred and the recommendation or settlement was acceptable to the Commission, then this case could be resolved and closed without the need to open a new case.

Based upon the representations at the prehearing conference, Staff will be directed to file its second revised recommendation or a settlement of the parties not later than February 15, 2002. Staff may indicate whether the parties have accepted or have no objection to the recommendations. If Staff does not indicate the positions of the parties, then the parties shall have seven days from the filing of the recommendation to file responses. The Commission will then direct further proceedings if necessary, including establishing a new case, or decide to close this case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the Commission's Staff shall file its second revised recommendation or a settlement of the parties not later than February 15, 2002. If Staff does not indicate the positions of the parties, then the parties shall have seven days from the filing of the recommendation to file responses.

2. That this order shall become effective on January 24, 2002.

BY THE COMMISSION



**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 24th day of January, 2002.

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 24th day of Jan. 2002 .

Dale Hardy Roberts

Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

