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May 4, 2001

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Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

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General Counsel

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Case No. GO-98-567

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned case are an original and eight (8) conformed copies of a **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**.

This filing has been mailed or hand-delivered this date to all counsel of record.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis L. Frey
Associate General Counsel
(573) 751-8700
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
dfrey03@mail.state.mo.us

DLF:ccl
Enclosure
cc: Counsel of Record

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

FILED²

MAY 4 2001

Missouri Public
Service Commission

In the Matter of the Application of)
Associated Natural Gas Company, a)
Division of Arkansas Western Gas)
Company, for a Three-Year Variance from)
Section (19) of 4 CSR 240-10.030,)
Regarding the Testing of Gas Meters.)

Case No. GO-98-567

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and for its Recommendation, respectfully states as follows:

1. On April 20, 2000, the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") issued an order in Case No. GM-2000-312, authorizing Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos") to acquire the Missouri properties of Associated Natural Gas Company, a division of Arkansas Western Gas Company.

2. In the attached Memorandum, which is labeled Appendix A, the Staff recommends that the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Commission") grant approval of the following tariff sheet filed by Atmos:

P.S.C. MO. No. 6

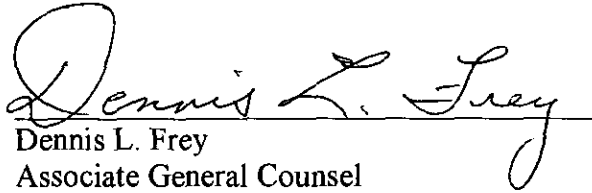
2nd Revised Sheet No. 45, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 45

3. The Staff has examined the tariff filing and has determined that it complies with the Commission's March 20, 2001 Order Granting Extension of Variance, which, among other things, directed the filing of the above tariff sheet.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth in its attached Memorandum, the Staff recommends that the Commission issue an order approving Atmos' tariff sheet, as identified herein.

Respectfully submitted,

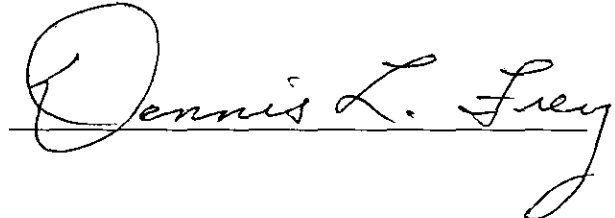
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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record as shown on the attached service list this 4th day of May 2001.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File,
Case No. GO-98-567, Associated Natural Gas Company

FROM: James A. Gray, Gas Department - Tariffs/Rate Design

J.A. Gray
Wes Headlee 5-3-01
Utility Operations Division/Date

Thomas R. Schwanz Jr. 5/3/01
General Counsel's Office/Date

O.R. 5-3-01

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation on a Tariff Sheet Filed to Comply with the
Commission's Order.

DATE: May 3, 2001

On April 19, 2001, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) of Austin, Texas, filed a tariff sheet with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) to comply with the Commission's ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF VARIANCE (Order) issued on March 20, 2001. On April 25, 2001, Atmos filed a substitute tariff sheet to correct a clerical error.

The Order required Atmos to file appropriate changes to its tariff to reflect an extension of a variance from 4 CSR 240-10.030(19) to continue its sample method program for testing gas service meters through December 31, 2001. The Order further states, "That Atmos Energy Corporation shall file a reference to the extension of the variance granted at an appropriate location in its tariff, and that such references or revised tariff sheets shall be filed no later than April 19, 2001."

The Commission's Gas Department - Tariffs/Rate Design Staff (Staff) has reviewed the filed tariff sheet and is of the opinion that it is in compliance with the Commission's Order dated March 20, 2001. Therefore, Staff recommends that the following tariff sheet filed on April 19, 2001, and as substituted on April 25, 2001, be allowed to become effective for service on and after May 19, 2001, the requested effective date.

P.S.C. MO. No. 6

2nd Revised Sheet No. 45, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 45

Copies: Director - Utility Operations Division
Director - Research and Public Affairs Division
Director - Utility Services Division
General Counsel
Manager - Financial Analysis Department
Manager - Procurement Analysis Department
Manager - Gas Department
Patricia D. Childres, Manager of Regulatory Affairs (Atmos)
Mark A. Martin - Senior Rate Analyst (Atmos)
James M. Fischer - Attorney for Atmos (Fischer & Dority, PC)
Office of the Public Counsel

Service List for
Case No. GO-98-567
Verified: May 4, 2001 (ccl)

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