

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

In the matter of Atmos Energy )	
Corporation's Purchased Gas Adjustment )	
Factors to be Reviewed in Its )	
2000-2001 Actual Cost Adjustment. )	Case No. GR-2001-396

In the matter of United Cities Gas )	
Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment )	
Tariff Revisions to be Reviewed in Its )	Case No. GR-2001-397
2000-2001 Actual Cost Adjustment. )	

**ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION'S RESPONSE TO STAFF'S  
SUGGESTIONS IN SUPPORT OF UNANIMOUS STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT**

**COMES NOW** Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos"), pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.080, and in response to the Staff's Suggestions In Support Of Unanimous Stipulation And Agreement states as follows:

1. The parties filed their Unanimous Stipulation And Agreement ("Agreement") on April 4, 2003. The Agreement, among other things, provided that the Staff would file suggestions in support of the Agreement within fourteen (14) days of the filing of the Agreement. The Agreement also provided that "the other parties shall have the right to file responsive suggestions within seven (7) days of receipt of Staff's memorandum."

2. On April 18, 2003, Staff filed its suggestions, where it indicated its support for the Agreement, as well as the underlying basis for its support.

3. Atmos agrees with the primary conclusion drawn by Staff. That is, that the settlement is "fair and reasonable" and recommends "that the Commission issue an Order approving the Unanimous Stipulation And Agreement, filed in this proceeding on April 4, 2003." (Suggestions, pp. 5, 8).

4. However, this statement does not indicate Atmos' agreement with the entirety of Staff's Suggestions. A Stipulation And Agreement may be reached based upon many different interpretations of the evidence, conclusions and reasons. While Staff has stated its concerns and beliefs regarding the Agreement, and reasons for settling the case, Atmos had its own reasons for settling the case that were not the same reasons or based upon the same concerns, as those included in the Staff's Suggestions. Consequently, while Atmos supports this Agreement that has been filed in this matter and recommends that the Commission approve the Agreement, Atmos reiterates that the Staff's Suggestions In Support of Unanimous Stipulation And Agreement are Staff's own and are not acquiesced in or otherwise adopted by Atmos, whether or not the Commission approves and adopts this Agreement.

WHEREFORE, Atmos Energy Corporation respectfully submits this response and requests that the Commission approve all of the specific terms and conditions of the Unanimous Stipulation And Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James M. Fischer

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this document has been hand-delivered, emailed or mailed, First Class, postage prepaid, this 24th day of April, 2003, to:

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/s/ James M. Fischer

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