COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION, THROUGH ITS DIVISION, WESTERN KENTUCKY GAS COMPANY OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY, FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO 1,000,000 SHARES OF COMMON STOCK THROUGH THE ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

CASE NO. 2000-539

FIRST DATA REQUEST OF COMMISSION STAFF TO ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos") is requested, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, to file with the Commission the original and five copies of the following information, with a copy to all parties of record. The information requested herein is due on or before January 16, 2001. Each copy of the data requested should be placed in a bound volume with each item tabbed. When a number of sheets are required for an item, each sheet should be appropriately indexed, for example, Item 1(a), Sheet 2 of 6. Include with each response the name of the person who will be responsible for responding to questions relating to the information provided. Careful attention should be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible. Where information requested herein has been provided, in the format requested herein, reference may be made to the specific location of said information in responding to this information request.

1. Furnish an estimate of the total capital value that would be raised in the stock issuance and the method used to generate this estimate.

2. Provide a calculation that approximates the amount of new capital that will be allocated to Western and to what extent Western's financial status will be affected.

3. Explain the justification that this stock issuance is the most cost-effective approach of realizing the objectives set forth in the application.

4. Present a schedule that reports the quantity and value of ESOP stock sold per year since the Commission's prior ESOP authorization.

Thomas M. Dorman Executive Director Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard P. O. Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

DATED January 8, 2001

cc: All Parties