

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF ATMOS ENERGY)	
CORPORATION, OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY)	
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)	CASE NO.
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY)	2012-00256
AUTHORIZING IT TO BID ON A FRANCHISE)	
ESTABLISHED BY THE CITY OF)	
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY)	

O R D E R

On June 19, 2012, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos") filed its application with the Commission seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to qualify it to bid on a franchise for natural gas services offered by the city of Hardinsburg, Kentucky. Under the provisions of KRS 278.020(4), no utility may apply for a franchise from any governmental agency until it has obtained a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from this Commission based on our finding that there is a need and demand for the service sought to be rendered.

In light of the ordinance of the city of Hardinsburg, Kentucky creating a natural gas distribution franchise, the Commission determines that there is evidence of a need and demand for natural gas services for the city of Hardinsburg, Kentucky. Since the Commission's authority in such matters is limited by statute to finding only whether there is a need and demand for the service sought to be rendered, no finding or determination is made as to the qualifications of the bidder, the validity of any of the provisions of the franchises offered by the city of Hardinsburg, Kentucky, or the manner in which any franchise fee is to be treated for rate purposes.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

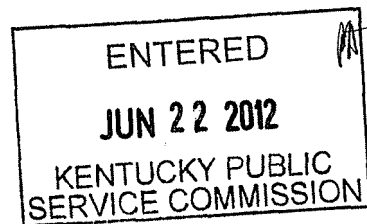
1. Atmos is granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity that authorizes it to bid on a franchise for natural gas services offered by the city of Hardinsburg, Kentucky.

2. Atmos, if it becomes the successful bidder, shall file two copies of the franchise agreement with the Commission's tariff branch.

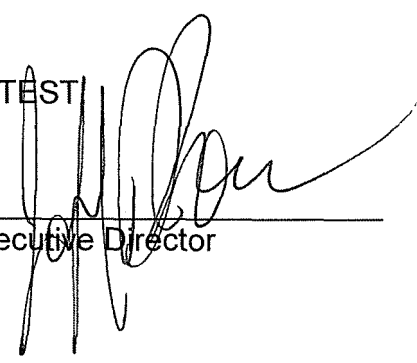
3. This Order shall not be construed as granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct utility facilities for the city of Hardinsburg, Kentucky.

By the Commission

Commissioner Breathitt is abstaining from this proceeding.



ATTEST



Executive Director

Honorable Mark R Hutchinson
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