Ernie Fletcher Governor

LaJuana S. Wilcher, Secretary Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet

Christopher L. Lilly Commissioner Department of Public Protection

Honorable Mark R. Hutchinson Attorney at Law Wilson, Hutchinson & Poteat 611 Frederica Street Owensboro, KY 42301



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615 Telephone: (502) 564-3940 Fax: (502) 564-3460 psc.ky.gov

August 26, 2005

Mark David Goss Chairman

> Teresa J. Hill Vice Chairman

Gregory Coker Commissioner

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

RE: Case No. 2005-00287 Atmos Energy Corporation

I, Beth O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Public Service Commission, hereby certify that the enclosed attested copy of the Commission's Order in the above case was served upon the addressee by U.S. Mail on August 26, 2005.

**Executive Director** 



Honorable Mark R. Hutchinson Attorney at Law Wilson, Hutchinson & Poteat 611 Frederica Street Owensboro, KY 42301 Gary L. Smith Vice President, KY Marketing & Reg. Atmos Energy Corporation 2401 New Hartford Road Owensboro, KY 42303-1312 Douglas Walther Senior Analyst - Rate Administration Atmos Energy Corporation P. O. Box 650205 Dallas, TX 75235-0205

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## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A \$600 MILLION THREE-YEAR REVOLVING CREDIT FACILITY

CASE NO. 2005-00287

## <u>O R D E R</u>

On July 8, 2005, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos") filed an application for authority to implement a three-year \$600 million revolving credit facility ("credit facility"). Atmos plans to use the proceeds to replace a 364-day term \$600 million revolving credit facility entered into October 22, 2004 which will serve primarily as a liquidity backstop for Atmos's commercial paper program, but would also be used for direct borrowings.

Atmos will obtain the credit facility through a syndicate of commercial banks and other financial institutions. The interest rate on any direct borrowings will be a floating rate, set at a spread over either the then prevailing London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") or an alternate floating rate such as the Prime Rate or the Federal Funds Rate. Any spread will be determined by Atmos's then prevailing senior unsecured credit rates. Atmos anticipates that the maximum spread over LIBOR would be 1.5 percent per year. Atmos would also pay a fee on any unused availability under the credit facility, based on the then prevailing senior unsecured credit rate. Atmos anticipates the maximum spread credit rate. Atmos anticipates the maximum secured credit rate. Atmos anticipates the maximum unused fee would be .5 percent per year. Finally, Atmos would pay an

annual fee to the administrative agent and a one-time arrangement fee at closing to the banks involved in the credit facility.

The Commission, having considered the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that the proposed implementation of a \$600 million three-year revolving credit facility as set out in Atmos's application should be approved. The Commission also finds that the proposed financing is for lawful objects within the corporate purposes of Atmos's utility operations, is necessary and appropriate for and consistent with the proper performance of its service to the public, will not impair its ability to perform that service, is reasonably necessary and appropriate for such purposes, and should therefore be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Atmos is authorized to implement a three-year revolving credit facility for an amount not to exceed \$600,000,000, as set forth in its application.

2. The proceeds from the transactions authorized herein shall be used only for the lawful purposes set out in the application.

3. Atmos shall agree only to such terms and prices that are consistent with this Order.

4. Atmos shall, within 30 days from the date of closing, file with this Commission a statement setting forth the date or dates of implementation of the credit facility authorized herein, the interest rate, and all fees and expenses.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a finding of value for any purpose or as a warranty on the part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or any agency thereof as to the securities authorized herein.

Case No. 2005-00287

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Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 26th day of August, 2005.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

Coluct a. Compte for the Executive Director

Case No. 2005-00287