Steven L. Beshear Governor

Leonard K. Peters Secretary Energy and Environment Cabinet



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

June 17, 2010

David L. Armstrong Chairman

> James Gardner Vice Chairman

Charles R. Borders Commissioner

Mark Martin VP Rates & Regulatory Affairs Atmos Energy Corporation 3275 Highland Pointe Drive Owensboro, KY 42303

RE: Case No. 2010-00243
Atmos Energy Corporation
(Weather Normalization Adjustment)

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of initial application in the above case. The application was date-stamped received June 17, 2010 and has been assigned Case No. 2010-00243. In all future correspondence or filings in connection with this case, please reference the above case number. Public comments and responses to public comments regarding this case may be viewed on the Commission's web site at http://www.psc.ky.gov.

If you need further assistance, please contact my staff at (502) 564-3940.

Sincerely,

Jeff Derouen

**Executive Director** 





The Law Offices of

## The Law Offices of PUBLIC SERVICE WILSON, HUTCHINSON, POTEAT & LITTLEPAGE COMMISSION

611 Frederica Street Owensboro, Kentucky 42301 Telephone (270) 926-5011 Facsimile (270) 926-9394

William L. Wilson, Jr. Mark R. Hutchinson T. Steven Poteat T. Tommy Littlepage

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June 15, 2010

Jeff R. Derouen **Executive Director** Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. PO Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

2010-006

Application of Atmos Energy Corporation RE:

for an Order Continuing the Weather Normalization

Adjustment for Five Years

Dear Mr. Derouen:

I enclose herewith an original, plus ten (10) copies, of Atmos Energy Corporation's Application for an Order Continuing the Weather Normalization Adjustment for Five Years for filing in your office.

Please advise if anything additional is needed. Thanks.

Very truly yours,

Mark R. Hutchinson

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



IN THE	MATT	ER OF:
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THE APPLICATION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION	)	
FOR AN ORDER CONTINUING THE WEATHER	)	
NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT FOR FIVE (5)	)	CASE NO
ADDITIONAL YEARS	)	

Comes now Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos") and files its application herein for an order continuing the Weather Normalization Adjustment mechanism ("WNA") for five (5) additional years. In support of this Application, Atmos Energy states as follows:

- 1. In the Company's 1999 rate adjustment case (Case No.1999-070), the Commission, by order dated December 21, 1999 (the "Order"), approved implementation by Atmos of the WNA for a five (5) year trial period, commencing November 1, 2000
- 2. On June 29, 2005, Atmos filed an Application with the Commission requesting to continue its WNA for five (5) additional years, through October 31, 2010 (Case No. 2005-00268). By Order dated September 19, 2005, the Commission granted Atmos' request to continue its WNA for five (5) years commencing November 1, 2005. Accordingly, the WNA is scheduled to end October 31, 2010.
- 3. The WNA mechanism was initially proposed to separate or "decouple" impacts of weather-related volume on the Company's margin recovery. During periods of colder than normal weather, the WNA lowers the Company's distribution charge and softens

- the impact of colder weather on consumers. Conversely, warmer than normal weather increases the distribution charge. Accordingly, the WNA, for weather-related volumes, stabilizes the Company's revenues and stabilizes the consumers billings.
- 4. Traditional ratemaking defines the utility's revenue requirement, then separates the Company's non-gas related revenues into fixed monthly charges and commodity-driven charges. The commodity driven distribution charges are based upon volumes expected with normal winter weather. However, to the extent actual winter temperatures deviate from normal, volumes will vary and the Company may exceed or fall short of its established revenue requirements. A WNA mechanism is intended to compensate for this weather variance. The WNA mechanism has performed very well during nearly ten (10) years it has been in effect and has met its intended purpose.
- 5. The Company proposes to utilize the same basis for normal Heating Degree Days (NOAA Normals for 1971-1990). The Company also proposes to continue to annually update the Base Load ("BL"), Heating Sensitive Factors ("HSF") and average distribution rate factor ("R) for each of the affected classes of firm sales ("Rate G-1") service; residential, commercial and public authority.
- 6. Given the favorable performance of the WNA mechanism during the preceding ten (10) year period, no changes in the existing tariff or processes are proposed. The proposed five year extension of the WNA would begin November 1, 2010. Annual reports, in the format previously used, would continue as currently prescribed.

- Atmos' principal operating office and place of business is 3275 Highland Pointe,
   Owensboro, Kentucky. The post office address of Atmos is P.O. Box 650205, Dallas,
   Texas 75265-0205.
- 8. Atmos' Articles of Incorporation, together with all amendments thereto, have already been filed with the Commission in Case No. 2008-00222. There have been no changes to the Articles of Incorporation since they were filed with the Commission in Docket No. 2008-00222.
- Correspondence and communications with respect to this Application should be directed to:

Mark A. Martin Vice President, Rates and Regulatory Affairs Atmos Energy Corporation 3275 Highland Pointe Drive Owensboro, Kentucky 42303

Douglas C. Walther Senior Attorney Atmos Energy Corporation P.O. Box 650205 Dallas, Texas 75265-0205

Mark R. Hutchinson Attorney at Law 611 Frederica Street Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

WHEREFORE, Atmos respectfully requests that the Commission authorize by appropriate order, a continuation of Atmos' WNA for five (5) additional years.

This \_/\( \square \) day of June, 2010.

Douglas C. Walther Senior Attorney Atmos Energy Corporation P.O. Box 650205 Dallas, Texas 75265-0205

Mark R. Hutchinson Attorney at Law 611 Frederica Street Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

**COUNSEL FOR ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION** 

Ву: