COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF ATMOS)ENERGY CORPORATION FOR AN)ADJUSTMENT OF RATES; APPROVAL OF)TARIFF REVISIONS; AND OTHER GENERAL)RELIEF)

CASE NO. 2024-00276

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

On September 27, 2024, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) tendered its application for a rate increase based on a forecasted test year pursuant to KRS 278.180, KRS 278.190, 807 KAR 5:001 Sections 14 and 16 and 807 KAR 5:011. The application proposed that the new rates become effective on November 1, 2024. By letter dated October 2, 2024, the Commission notified Atmos that its application was deficient under 807 KAR 5:001, Section 17(4)(c), because the customer notice failed to accurately state the dollar amount change to average bills under the G-2 proposed rate. On October 3, 2024, Atmos responded by filing a motion for deviation. Atmos stated that the average bill inaccuracy was due to an incorrect rate listed as the proposed G-2 rate. Atmos stated that a corrected notice was sent by mail to the six customers that take service under the G-2 (interruptible) rate and would also be printed in the applicable newspapers the week of October 6, 2024. Atmos sought a deviation from notice requirements since 807 KAR 5:001, Section 17(2)(b) requires notice to be effectuated no later than the date the application is submitted to the Commission. The Commission granted this deviation by Order issued October 11, 2024.

Pursuant to KRS 278.180(1), changes to any rate by any utility is prohibited except upon 30 days' notice to the Commission. Atmos sought a deviation from 807 KAR 5:001, Section 17(2)(b) because its customer notice contained a rate error. Since the application was accepted for filing as of October 11, 2024, the earliest date that Atmos's proposed rates can be effective is November 11, 2024. Having reviewed Atmos's application, the Commission finds that an investigation is necessary to determine the reasonableness of the proposed rates, and that an investigation cannot be completed by November 11, 2024. Therefore, pursuant to KRS 278.190(2), the Commission will suspend the effective date of the proposed rates for six months, up to and including May 11, 2025.

The Commission further finds that a procedural schedule is necessary to review the reasonableness of the proposed rates. Therefore, the Commission establishes the procedural schedule attached as an Appendix to this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Atmos's proposed rates are suspended for six months, up to and including May 11, 2025.

2. The procedural schedule set forth in the Appendix to this Order shall be followed.

3. Atmos shall respond to all requests for information propounded by Commission Staff, whether identified on the procedural schedule or otherwise, as provided in those requests.

4. Any party filing a paper with the Commission shall file an electronic copy in accordance with the electronic filing procedures set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8.

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Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable, and shall be appropriately bookmarked. The Commission directs the parties to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085¹ regarding filings with the Commission.

5. As set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(11)(a), a person requesting permissive intervention in a Commission proceeding is required to demonstrate either (1) a special interest in the proceeding that is not adequately represented in the case, or (2) that the person requesting permissive intervention is likely to present issues or develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings. Therefore, any person requesting to intervene in a Commission proceeding must state with specificity the person's special interest that is not otherwise adequately represented, or the issues and facts that the person will present that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter. A mere recitation of the quantity of utility service consumed by the movant or a general statement regarding a potential impact of possible modification of rates will not be deemed sufficient to establish a special interest.

6. Any motion to intervene filed after the date established in the procedural schedule shall also show good cause for being untimely. If the untimely motion is granted, the movant shall accept and abide by the existing procedural schedule.

¹ Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

7. The Commission does not look favorably upon motions for continuance. Accordingly, motions for extensions of time with respect to the schedule herein shall be made in writing and will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

Commissioner Commissioner

ENTERED OCT 17 2024 AH KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:

Fur **Executive Director**

Case No. 2024-00276

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2024-00276 DATED OCT 17 2024

Last day for intervention requests to be accepted	10/25/2024
Atmos shall file responses to Commission Staff's First Request for Information no later than	10/25/2024
Commission Staff's Second Request for Information to Atmos and Intervenor initial requests for information shall be filed no later than	11/12/2024
Atmos shall file responses to Commission Staff's Second Request for Information to Atmos and Intervenor initial requests no later than	12/02/2024
Commission Staff's Third Request for Information to Atmos and Intervenor supplemental requests for information shall be filed no later than	12/16/2024
Atmos shall file responses to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information and Intervenor supplemental requests no later than	01/03/2025
Intervenor testimony, if any, in verified prepared form, shall be filed no later than	01/27/2025
All requests for information to Intervenors shall be filed no later than	02/10/2025
Intervenors shall file responses to requests for information no later than	02/24/2025
Atmos shall file, in verified form, its rebuttal testimony no later than	03/10/2025
Last day for Parties to request a Public Hearing or submit a request for the matter be decided based upon the written record	03/17/2025
Post-Hearing Briefs, if any To	be scheduled

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