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James W. Gardner  
Chairman

Daniel E. Logsdon Jr.  
Vice Chairman

J. Roger Thomas  
Commissioner

January 25, 2016

Parties of Record

Re: Atmos Energy Corporation, Case No. 2015-00343

I am a member of the Gas Technology Institute's (GTI) Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC). I have been informed that an issue has arisen in the above case regarding a proposed increase in rates under the Research and Development Rider, which is the tariff utilized by Atmos to recover expenses incurred to support the research of GTI.

As the attached letter appointing me to PIAC in 2010 indicates, the PIAC is a mere advisory body that provides "guidance" to GTI about "Public Interest issues and long term trends that may potentially have an impact on GTI, the Gas Industry, and the Gas Consumer." PIAC is not involved in the management nor budgeting of GTI at all.

If any of the parties to this case wishes to comment or object to my participation as a Commissioner in this case, please do so in writing within 10 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James W. Gardner".

James W. Gardner  
Chairman



November 19, 2010

The Honorable James W. Gardner  
Vice Chairman  
Kentucky Public Service Commission  
211 Sower Blvd.  
Frankfort, KY 40602

Dear Commissioner Gardner:

I extend an invitation to you to join GTI's Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC). The PIAC is very important to GTI in that it helps us and our Board to determine the future strategic direction of public interest R&D for gas consumers and for GTI. We need guidance to help us focus our R&D efforts and centers of excellence to maximize gas-consumer benefits.

In the following paragraphs, I have provided details on the purpose of the PIAC, some of the topics we hope to address there, and its implementation.

The purpose of the PIAC is to:

Provide guidance to the GTI Board and the GTI staff on Public Interest issues and long-term trends that may potentially have impact on GTI, the Gas Industry, and the Gas Consumer

Issues and topics addressed by the PIAC will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Stimulus Funding (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) Opportunities
- Regulatory trends
  - Energy industry regulations and impact on public benefits R&D
  - State system benefits charges: a solution for public interest R&D?
- Public Interest needs in the energy sector that cut across sectors
  - Will there be adequate natural gas for all the new combined cycle plants now planned?
  - Can natural gas distributed generation and CHP systems help to ease electric transmission congestion without adversely impacting gas consumers?
- Environmental strategic issues
  - Impact of global climate change regulations on natural gas R&D
  - Role of natural gas in the global climate change debate
- Public Interest technological developments
  - LNG – will it provide enhanced supply security?
  - LNG and biogas – interchangeability issues

Commissioner Gardner

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- Gas from Shales – environmental concerns
- US energy industry trends
- Infrastructure security
- Consumer needs
  - Indoor air quality
  - Increased efficiency R&D funding – a manufacturer, state, federal, gas industry, or gas consumer responsibility?
  - New supplies – How real and at what price?
  - Price volatility
- Energy system security
- State/Federal Legislative trends
- US and world economic outlooks and impact on GTI constituencies

The Committee is composed of about 2 dozen people. There are seven classifications of representatives:

State Regulatory representatives (10) (from NARUC Gas and ERE Committees)  
Consumer Advocates (4) (NASUCA to appoint)  
Environmental representatives (2)  
Financial/Economic representative (1)  
Academic/Technology Organization representatives (2)  
State R&D Agency representatives (2)  
Municipal Gas Company representatives (2)

**Implementation:**

- Two meetings per year
- Expenses will be covered by GTI, if allowed by your organization

Our next meeting is in Chicago, Illinois in April, 2011 (exact date TBD). I hope you can make time to attend that session. The meetings run from noon the first day to 1:00 PM the second day

Commissioner, thanks again for your consideration of GTI. Please email me at [ron.edelstein@gastechnology.org](mailto:ron.edelstein@gastechnology.org) or call me at (202) 661-8644 if you have any questions on this.

Your response to this letter can be sent or communicated directly to me. An email response is fine.

Best regards,



Ron Edelstein  
Director, Regulatory and Governmental Relations

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