

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF ATMOS)	CASE NO. 2021-00193
ENERGY CORPORATION FOR AN)	
ORDER AUTHORIZING THE)	
IMPLEMENTATION OF A \$5,000,000,000)	
UNIVERSAL SHELF REGISTRATION)	

PETITION FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos Energy), by counsel, petitions for an order granting confidential protection of certain responses to the final order dated May 26, 2021, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13 and KRS 61.878. The order requests Atmos to file with the Commission a statement setting forth the date or dates of issuance, the price paid, the interest rate, the purchasers, all fees and expenses, including underwriting discounts or commission or other compensation and interest rate management agreements executed in conjunction with the issuance of the universal shelf registration.

The information requested includes details of the terms, conditions and financial analyses of interest rates negotiated by Atmos Energy with various banks. The information is commercially sensitive financial data, which is used to negotiate rates among various financial institutions. The disclosure of the redacted information will affect Atmos Energy's ability to negotiate the most favorable rates in future interest rate hedging transactions and will disclose to non-regulated entities internal financial details of Atmos Energy's operations and strategies. Public disclosure of

these negotiated rates would provide competitors of the Company and the Company's financial partners with information on how the Company negotiates financial transactions. The information requested contains sensitive information which is highly confidential. Public disclosure of the information would unnecessarily provide interested parties and Atmos Energy's competitors with access to exclusive information regarding financial information, which could unfairly harm Atmos Energy's competitive position in the marketplace.

Failure by the Company to maintain this information as confidential could create a chilling effect on the willingness of providers to enter negotiations with the Company. As a result, the Company's cost to obtain financing could be higher than it otherwise could be.

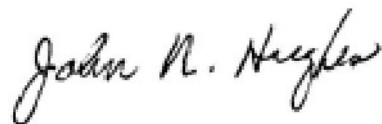
The Kentucky Open Records Act exempts from disclosure certain confidential or proprietary information. KRS 61.878(1)(c). To qualify for this exemption and, therefore, maintain the confidentiality of the information, a party must establish that disclosure of the information would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the party seeking confidentiality. The information sought in the data requests is commercial information that if disclosed could cause substantial competitive harm to Atmos Energy. These portions of Atmos Energy's Response contain proprietary information that would aid competitors of Atmos Energy and such proprietary information is subject to protection from disclosure pursuant to Kentucky law. This information is not publicly available. It would be difficult or impossible for someone to discover this information from other sources. If this information were available to competitors in this form, they could use it to the competitive detriment of Atmos Energy. This

information is not generally disclosed to non-management employees of Atmos Energy and is protected internally by the Company as proprietary information. The disclosure of this proprietary information would result in significant or irreparable competitive harm to Atmos Energy by providing its competitors with non-reciprocal competitive advantage. No public purpose is served by the disclosure of such information.

Atmos Energy requests that the information be held confidentially indefinitely. The statutes cited above do not allow for disclosure at any time. Given the competitive nature of the natural gas business and the efforts of non-regulated competitors to encroach upon traditional markets, it is imperative that regulated information remain protected and that the integrity of the financing remain secure.

For these reasons, Atmos Energy requests that the items identified in this petition be treated as confidential in their entirety. Should the Commission determine that some or all the material is not to be given confidential protection, Atmos Energy requests a hearing prior to any public release of the information to preserve its rights to notice of the grounds for the denial and to preserve its right of appeal of the decision.

Submitted by:



John N. Hughes
124 West Todd St.
Frankfort, KY 40601
502 227 7270
jnhughes@johnnhughespsc.com

And

Mark R. Hutchinson
Wilson, Hutchinson & Littlepage

611 Frederica St.
Owensboro, KY 42303
270 926 5011
Fax: 270-926-9394
randy@whplawfirm.com

Attorneys for Atmos Energy Corporation