

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC EMERGENCY DOCKET RELATED) CASE NO.
TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19) 2020-00085

ORDER

On March 16, 2020, the Commission established this docket in response to a state of emergency brought on by the pandemic of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The Commission's Order entered on March 16, 2020, *inter alia*, directed utilities to temporarily cease disconnections for nonpayment, waive all late payment charges, and urged utilities to offer lenient payment plans for current unpaid balances.¹ On July 22, 2021, the Commission issued an Order that, *inter alia*, found that beginning August 16, 2021, utilities, as applicable, shall resume the annual reporting and testing required by meter testing and inspection deviation plans approved by the Commission.²

On August 6, 2021, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) filed a motion requesting deviation from the requirement that it resume meter testing on August 16, 2021, and that the Commission extend the waiver under effect prior to the July 22, 2021 Order until the end of this winter season, April 1, 2022. As grounds for its motion, Atmos explains that beginning to pull meters to test on August 16, 2021, would only allow it to pull five to ten percent of the meters it needs to test prior to the cold weather season. Atmos states that

¹ Order (Ky. PSC Mar. 16, 2020) at 3–5.

² Order (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021) at 3.

using such a small percentage of its meters as a testing sample would not be considered statistically significant. Additionally, Atmos's usual practice is to pull meters for testing during warm weather months so that customers are not without energy during times when they may require energy for heat. Further, Atmos explains that resuming testing meters at this time would increase customer interaction at a time when the spread of the coronavirus is on the rise.

Based upon the motion and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that Atmos established good cause to grant its motion for deviation in light of the concern for customers' access to energy for heat and to minimize interaction between employees and customers to reduce any potential health risks that physical interaction presents.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Atmos's motion for a deviation from the July 22, 2021 Order is granted;
2. The waiver for meter testing and reporting in effect prior to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order shall remain in effect until the end of the winter season, April 1, 2022.
3. The Commission retains the right to modify, alter, or retract any and all portions of this Order, or any Order in this proceeding, at any time.

By the Commission



ATTEST:


Executive Director

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