

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF ATMOS)	
ENERGY CORPORATION FOR A CERTIFICATE)	
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY)	CASE NO.
AUTHORIZING IT TO BID ON A FRANCHISE)	2023-00244
ESTABLISHED BY THE CITY OF OWENSBORO,)	
KENTUCKY)	

ORDER

On July 24, 2023, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos Energy) filed its application with the Commission seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to authorize it to bid on a franchise offered by the city of Owensboro, Kentucky, for the transmission and distribution of natural gas. Atmos Energy provided a copy of Ordinance No. 17-2023, which authorized granting a franchise for the sale and distribution of natural gas within the city of Owensboro boundary.¹ Ordinance No. 17-2023 was approved on June 20, 2023, and public notice of the sale of franchise was published on July 22, 2023.²

Sections 163 and 164 of the Kentucky Constitution and KRS Chapter 96 authorize municipal corporations to require public utilities, including non-governmental providers of electricity within the municipal corporations' boundaries, to operate under franchise agreements and to grant utilities the right to use public right-of-way on reasonable and necessary conditions. Under the provisions of KRS 278.020(5), no utility may apply for a

¹ Application, unnumbered pages 8–25.

² Application, unnumbered page 26.

franchise from any governmental agency until it has obtained a CPCN from this Commission based on our finding that there is a need and demand for the service sought to be rendered.

In light of the city of Owensboro's ordinance creating a natural gas transmission and distribution franchise, the Commission determines that there is evidence of a need and demand for natural gas service in the above-mentioned city. Since the Commission's authority in such matters is limited by statute to finding only whether there is a need and demand for the service sought to be rendered, no finding or determination is made as to the qualifications of the bidder, the validity of any of the provisions of the franchises offered by said city, or the manner in which any franchise fee is to be treated for rate purposes.

The Commission directs Atmos Energy to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085³ regarding filings with the Commission.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Atmos Energy is granted a CPCN that authorizes it to bid on a franchise offered by the city of Owensboro, Kentucky, for the transmission and distribution of natural gas.

2. If Atmos Energy is not the successful bidder, Atmos Energy shall file with the Commission, within ten days of the award of the franchise at issue, a written notice stating that Atmos Energy was not the successful bidder.

³ 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).

3. If Atmos Energy is the successful bidder, Atmos Energy shall file with the Commission, within ten days of the award of the franchise at issue, a copy of the executed franchise agreement and a statement disclosing the amount of the initial franchise fee.

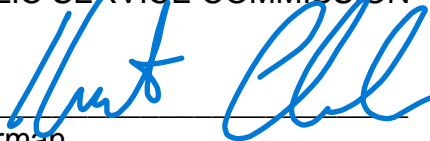
4. If Atmos Energy is the successful bidder, Atmos Energy shall file with the Commission, within ten days of an increase or decrease in the amount of the initial franchise fee set forth in the franchise agreement, documentation setting forth the revised fee.

5. Any documents filed pursuant to ordering paragraphs 2, 3, or 4 of this Order shall reference the number of this case and shall be electronically submitted via the Commission's electronic Tariff Filing System.

6. This Order shall not be construed as granting a CPCN to construct utility facilities in said city.

7. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ENTERED
AUG 02 2023 bsb
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:


Executive Director

*Atmos Energy Corporation
3275 Highland Pointe Drive
Owensboro, KY 42303

*Honorable John N Hughes
Attorney at Law
7106 Frankfort Road
Versailles, KENTUCKY 40383

*Randy Hutchinson
Wilson, Hutchinson & Littlepage
611 Frederica Street
Owensboro, KENTUCKY 42301

*Eric Wilen
Atmos Energy Corporation
810 Crescent Centre Drive, Suite 600
Franklin, TN 37067