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FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

THIS **FRANCHISE AGREEMENT** is made and executed this 12th day of July, 2012, by and between the City of Hardinsburg, Kentucky (sometimes referred to herein as the "City" or "Grantor"), and Atmos Energy Corporation (referred to herein as "Grantee").

Article I

DEFINITIONS:

As used in this Agreement, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

(A) "*Commission*" refers to and is the Kentucky Public Service Commission, the state utility regulatory commission having jurisdiction over the rates, services and operations of Grantee within the State of Kentucky or other administrative or regulatory authority succeeding to the regulatory powers of the Commission.

(B) "*Council*" or "*City Council*" refers to and is the governing body of the City of Hardinsburg.

(C) "*City*" refers to and is the City of Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, Kentucky, and includes such territory as currently is or may in the future be included within the boundaries of the City of Hardinsburg.

(D) "*Franchise*" shall mean the rights and privileges granted by the Grantor to Grantee under the terms and provisions of this franchise ordinance.

(E) "*Grantee*" shall mean Atmos Energy Corporation.

(F) "*Grantor*" shall mean the City of Hardinsburg, Kentucky.

(G) "*Public Right-of-Way*" shall mean the surface, the airspace above the surface and area below the surface of any street, highway, alley, avenue, boulevard, sidewalk, pedestrian/bicycle lane or trail, driveway, bridge, utility easement or any other public ways owned, dedicated by plat, occupied or used

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by the public and within Grantor's geographical limits or boundaries established by applicable law.

(H) "*Revenues*" refer to and are those amounts of money which the Grantee receives from its customers within the Grantor's geographical limits or boundaries for the retail sale of gas under rates, temporary or permanent, authorized by the Commission and represents amounts billed under such rates as adjusted for refunds, the net write-off of uncollectible accounts, corrections or other regulatory adjustments. Revenues do not include miscellaneous service charges, including but not limited to turn ons, meter sets, non sufficient funds, which are related to, but are not a part of the actual retail sale of gas.

(I) "*System*" shall mean the system of works, pipes, pipelines, facilities, fixtures, apparatus, lines, machinery, equipment, structures, appliances, appurtenances or other infrastructure reasonably necessary for the storage, transportation, distribution or sale of natural, artificial or mixed gas to residential and commercial customers and the public generally, within the geographical limits or boundaries of the Grantor.

(J) "*Force Majeure*" shall mean any and all causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of Grantee. Such causes shall include but not be limited to acts of God, acts of the public enemy, insurrections, terrorism, riots, labor disputes, boycotts, labor and material shortages, fires, explosions, flood, breakdowns of or damage to equipment of facilities, interruptions to transportation, embargoes, acts of military authorities, or other causes of a similar nature whether or not foreseen or foreseeable which wholly or partly prevent Grantee from performing one or more of its obligations hereunder.

Article II

GRANT OF FRANCHISE:

(A) There is hereby created and granted unto Grantee a non-exclusive franchise to enter upon, acquire, construct, operate, maintain and repair in the Public Right-of-Way the System, subject to the provisions of this Agreement. The



franchise granted hereunder shall be extended to territories that are annexed by Grantor upon the same terms and conditions herein, subject to the approval of the Commission, if any such approval is required.

(B) The franchise granted to Grantee by the Grantor shall not be exclusive and the Grantor reserves the right to grant a similar franchise to any other person or entity at any time. In the event the Grantor shall grant to another person or entity during the term hereof a franchise for a gas distribution system within the geographical boundaries or limits of Grantor similar to the one herein granted to Grantee, it is agreed that the terms of any such franchise agreement shall be no more favorable to such new additional grantee than those terms contained herein. Additionally, it is agreed that any such new/additional grantee shall have no right to use any portion of the System installed by Grantee without Grantee's written consent.

Article III

TERM, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND ACCEPTANCE OF FRANCHISE:

(A) The term of this franchise shall be for a term of twenty (20) years.

(B) The franchise created hereby shall become effective upon its final passage and approval by the City, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and upon acceptance by the Grantee by written instrument within sixty (60) days of passage of such by the governing body, and filed with the Clerk of the Grantor. If the Grantee does not, within sixty (60) days following passage of this Ordinance, express in writing its objections to any terms or provisions contained therein, or reject this Ordinance in its entirety, the Grantee shall be deemed to have accepted this Ordinance and all of its terms and conditions.

(C) The terms and conditions of Ordinance 450.10 are superseded by the terms and conditions hereof.

(D) On the expiration of this franchise, in the event the same is not renewed, or on the termination of any renewal of said franchise, or on termination of said franchise for any other reason, the plant and facilities of the Grantee



installed, constructed and operated hereunder shall, at the option of the City, become the property of the City, upon payment to the Grantee, its successors and/or assigns, for a fair valuation thereof, such fair valuation to be determined by an agreement between the City and the Grantee, its successors and/or assigns. Grantor agrees that, at the time of such transfer of facilities, it shall assume Grantee's contractual and regulatory obligations maintained in connection with the System.

Article IV

GRANTEE'S RIGHTS IN AND TO PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY:

The Grantee shall have the right and privilege of constructing, erecting, laying, operating, maintaining, replacing, removing and/or repairing a gas distribution system through, along, across and under the public right-of-way within the geographical boundaries or limits of the Grantor as it now exists or may hereafter be constructed or extended, subject to the inherent police powers conferred upon or reserved unto the Grantor and by the provisions of this Agreement.

Article V

OPERATION OF SYSTEM; EXCAVATION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY:

(A) The System shall at all times be installed, operated and maintained in good working condition as will enable the Grantee to furnish adequate and continuous service to all of its residential, commercial and industrial customers. The System shall be designed, installed, constructed and replaced in locations and at depths which comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding minimum safety standards for design, construction, maintenance and operation of gas distribution systems.



(B) Grantee shall have the right to disturb, break, and excavate in the Public Right-of Ways as may be reasonable and necessary to provide the service authorized hereby.

(C) Grantee will repair any damage caused solely by Grantee to any part of the Public Right-of-Way and will restore, as nearly as possible, such property to its condition as it existed immediately prior to such damage.

(D) Grantee shall indemnify and hold the Grantor harmless with respect to any damages to any real or personal property caused by Grantee's work and activities with regards to a disturbance, breakage or excavation of the Public Right-of-Way.

(E) Grantee shall use reasonable care in conducting its work and activities in order to prevent injury to any person and any unnecessary damage to any real or personal property.

(F) Grantee shall, when reasonably practicable, install all pipelines underground at such depth and in such manner so as not to interfere with the existing pavement, curbs, gutters, underground wires or cables or water or sewer pipes owned or controlled by the Grantor.

Article VI

DEGRADATION/RESTORATION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY:

(A) Grantee shall, upon request by the Grantor, remove, move, modify, relocate, reconstruct or adjust any part of the System located within the Public Right-of-Way, at its own expense, if the Grantor, in its sole discretion, constructs, reconstructs, widens, alters, excavates, repairs, changes or improves any public right-of-way as part of any public improvement project.

(B) If the Grantor requires the Grantee to adapt or confirm the System or to in any way construct, reconstruct, remove, alter, relocate, adjust or change its System to enable any other person, firm, corporation or entity, whether public or private, other than the Grantor, to utilize the Public Right-of-Way, Grantee shall be reimbursed for all its costs reasonably incurred by Grantee for such from the



person, firm, Franchisee, corporation or entity requesting or required by the Grantor to perform such change, construction, removal, repair, maintenance, alteration or relocation.

Article VII

**COMPENSATION FOR USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY AND
CONSIDERATION FOR FRANCHISE:**

(A) In consideration for the granting and exercise of the rights and privileges created hereunder, and in further consideration of the grant to the Franchisee of the right to make use of Public Right-of-Way, Grantee shall pay to the Grantor, during the entire life of the franchise, a sum equal to one percent (1%) of its Revenues. The fee prescribed herein shall be paid to the Grantor quarterly on or before the 30th day after the end of each calendar quarter after the effective date hereof, and the Grantee shall furnish to the Grantor quarterly a statement of the Grantee's Revenues.

(B) Grantee may add a line-item surcharge to the monthly bills of each of its customers located within the geographical boundaries or limits of the Grantor, which surcharge may be designated as a franchise fee, in an amount that is sufficient to recover the portion of the franchise fee paid by the Grantee to the Grantor that is attributable to the Revenue derived by Grantee from such customer.

(C) The franchise fee provided herein, together with any charges of the Grantor for water, sewage and garbage services provided by the Grantor to Grantee, and any applicable occupational license fees or sales, ad valorem or other taxes payable to the Grantor by the Grantee under applicable law, shall constitute the only amounts for which Grantee shall be obligated to pay to the Grantor and shall be in lieu of any and all other costs, levies, assessments, fees or other amounts, of any kind whatsoever, that the Grantor, currently or in the future, may charge Grantee or assess against Grantee's property. The franchise fee herein contemplated shall be uniformly and equally applied to all natural gas utilities, of like services or any other natural gas service that compete with the



Grantee, such that Grantee will be excused from collecting and paying franchise fees and/or taxes if Grantee's competitors are not also required to do so.

(D) The Grantor, through its duly authorized representative, and at all times reasonable, shall have access to, and the right to inspect Grantee's books and records that are necessary to confirm the accuracy of the amount of franchise fee being paid by it to the City.

Article VIII

SERVICE TO NEW AREAS:

If during the term of this franchise the boundaries of the Grantor are expanded, the Grantor will promptly notify Grantee in writing of any geographic areas annexed by the Grantor during the term hereof ("Annexation Notice"). Any such Annexation Notice shall be sent to the Grantee by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall contain the effective date of the annexation, maps showing the annexed area and such other information as Grantee may reasonably require in ascertaining whether there exist any customers of Grantee receiving natural gas service in said annexed area. To the extent there are such customers therein, then the revenue of Grantee derived from the retail sale of natural gas to such customers shall become subject to the franchise fee provisions hereof effective on the first day of Grantee's billing cycle immediately following the Franchisee's receipt of the Annexation Notice. The failure by the Grantor to advise Grantee in writing through proper Annexation Notice of any geographic areas which are annexed by the Grantor shall relieve Grantee from any obligation to remit any franchise fees to the Grantor based upon revenues derived by Grantee from the retail sale of natural gas to customers within the annexed area until Grantor delivers an Annexation Notice to Grantee in accordance with the terms hereof.



Article IX

BREACH OF FRANCHISE; REMEDIES:

In the event of any breach by the Grantee of any material provision hereof, the Grantor may terminate the franchise and the rights granted to Grantee hereunder, provided, however, that such termination shall not be effective unless and until the procedures described below have been followed:

(A) Grantor must deliver to Grantee, by certified or registered mail, a written notice signed by the mayor or other duly authorized member of the Grantor's governing body, attested by the Grantor's secretary. Such notice must (i) fairly and fully set forth in detail each of the alleged acts or omissions of Grantee that the Grantor contends constitutes a breach of any material provision hereof, (ii) designate which of the terms and conditions hereof the Grantor contends Grantee breached, and (iii) specify the date, time, and place at which a public hearing will be held by the governing body of the Grantor for the purpose of determining whether the allegations contained in the notice did in fact occur, provided, however, that the date of such hearing may not be less than thirty (30) days after the date of such notice.

(B) Within twenty (20) days following the adjournment of the public hearing described in Subsection (A) above, the Grantor must deliver to Grantee, by certified or registered mail, a written notice signed by the mayor or other duly authorized member of Grantor's governing body, attested by the Grantor's secretary, setting forth (i) the acts and omissions of Grantee described in the first notice that the governing body of the Grantor determines to have in fact occurred and (ii) the specific terms and conditions hereof in the first notice that the governing body of the Grantor determines to have in fact been breached by such acts or omissions of Grantee.

(C) The Grantor will permit Grantee an opportunity to satisfactorily correct all of the breaches hereof set forth in the written notice described in Subsection (B) above within sixty (60) days after the Grantee's receipt of such notice.



Article X
FORCE MAJEURE

Notwithstanding anything expressly or impliedly to the contrary contained herein, in the event Franchisee is prevented, wholly or partially, from complying with any obligation or undertaking contained herein by reason of any event of force majeure, then, while so prevented, compliance with such obligations or undertakings shall be suspended, and the time during which Franchisee is so prevented shall not be counted against it for any reason.

Article XI
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS; MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:

(A) Grantee shall at all times indemnify and hold harmless the Grantor from and against any and all lawful claims for injury to any person or property by reason of the Grantee's or its employees' failure to exercise reasonable care in installing, maintaining and operating the System. Provided, however, that none of the provisions of this paragraph shall be applicable to the extent the Grantor, or its officials, officers, employees, contractors, or agents, were negligent and such negligence was the primary contributing factor in bringing about injury to any person or property. In such event, any liability shall be apportioned between the Grantor and the Grantee based upon the percentage of fault assigned to each by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) Subject to the City's option under Article III (D) herein, Grantee may remove all or any part of its System upon the expiration or termination of the franchise and rights granted hereby.

(C) Grantee may transfer or assign the franchise created by this agreement to any other person, proprietorship, partnership, firm or corporation after written notification of such is given to the Grantor.

(D) If any section, subsection or provision of this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason found or held to be in conflict with any applicable statute



or rule of law, or is otherwise held to be unenforceable, the invalidity of any such section, subsection or provision shall not affect any or all other remaining sections and provisions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

(E) This Agreement shall extend to, be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the parties hereto, and their respective successors and assigns.

(F) To extent that any other ordinances of the Grantor or portions thereof are in conflict or inconsistent with any of the terms or provisions hereof, then the terms of this Ordinance shall control.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness the signatures of the parties on this the day and date first above written.

CITY OF HARDINBURG, KENTUCKY

BY: Wayne Macy
Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary J. Hess
City Clerk

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

BY: John Kenith Albers
President, Kentucky Division

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City's Mailing Address and Phone Number:

