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BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

T.R.A. BUCKET ROOM

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 12, 2006

IN RE:)	
ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION)) Docket No. 06-00258	
WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJ. (WNA)	A) AUDIT)	
NOTICE OF FILING BY UTIL	ITIES DIVISION OF THE	
TENNESSEE REGULATO	ORY AUTHORITY	

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-104, 65-4-111 and 65-3-108, the Utilities Division of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Utilities Division") hereby gives notice of its filing of the 2006 Atmos Energy Corporation WNA Audit Report in this docket and

1. The present docket was opened by the Authority to hear matters arising out of the audit of Atmos Energy Corporation (the "Company").

would respectfully state as follows:

- 2. The Company's WNA filings were received on November 1, 2005, through May 2, 2006, and the Staff completed its audit of same on October 6, 2006.
- 3. On October 6, 2006, the Utilities Division issued its preliminary WNA audit findings to the Company, and on October 6, 2006, the Company responded thereto.
- 4. The preliminary WNA audit report was modified to reflect the Company's responses and a final WNA audit report (the "Report") resulted therefrom. The Report is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is fully incorporated herein by this reference. The Report

contains the audit findings of the Utilities Division, the Company's responses thereto and the recommendations of the Utilities Division in connection therewith.

The Utilities Division hereby files its Report with the Tennessee Regulatory
 Authority for deposit as a public record and approval of the recommendations and findings contained therein.

Respectfully Submitted:

Paul D. Greene Utilities Division

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 12th day of October, 2006, a true and exact copy of the foregoing has been either hand-delivered or delivered via U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, to the following persons:

Sara Kyle Chairman Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243

Ms. Patricia Childers Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Atmos Energy Corporation 810 Crescent Centre, Suite 600 Franklin, TN 37067-6226

Mr. Allen Ashburn Senior Analyst Atmos Energy Corporation 381 Riverside Drive, Suite 440 Franklin, TN 37064-5393

Paul D Greene

EXHIBIT A

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

OF

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER

Docket No. 06-00258

PREPARED BY

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

UTILITIES DIVISION

OCTOBER 2006

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER

DOCKET NO. 06-00258

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COMPLIANCE AUDIT

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER

DOCKET NO. 06-00258

I. INTRODUCTION AND AUDIT OPINION

The subject of this compliance audit is the Weather Normalization Adjustment ("WNA") Rider of Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos" or "Company"). The objective of this audit is to determine if the WNA adjustments were calculated correctly and applied to customers' bills appropriately between November 2005 and April 2006. As a result of the WNA Rider, the Company surcharged a net \$933,261 and \$485,878 to the residential and commercial customers respectively during the period. The impact of WNA revenues on the Company's total revenues is detailed in Section V.

The Audit Staff's audit results showed that the Company over-collected \$85,090 from its customers. See Section VI, Finding #1 for a description of the Staff's finding. This amount is considered immaterial compared to the total amount billed. Except for the finding noted in this report, Audit Staff concludes that Atmos is correctly implementing the mechanics of the WNA Rider as specified by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or the "Authority") and included in the Company's tariff (See Attachment 1).

II. SCOPE OF AUDIT

In meeting the objective of the audit, the Staff compared the following on a daily basis:

- (1) the Company's actual heating degree days to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") actual heating degree days;
- (2) the Company's normal heating degree days to the normal heating degree days calculated in the last rate case; and
- (3) the Company's calculation of the WNA factor to Staff's calculation.

The Audit Staff selected a sample of customer bills to verify that the WNA factor had been correctly applied to the bills. The Audit Staff also examined each sample bill to determine whether the Base Rates and Purchased Gas Adjustments were billed correctly. Except for the finding noted in Section VI, Finding #2, addressing the application of incorrect PGA rates for nineteen (19) Union City customers, Audit Staff concludes that it appears that the Company is accurately billing its customers. Audit Staff also identified one customer which should have been charged franchise tax.

Pat Murphy and Paul Greene of the Utilities Division conducted this audit.

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY

Atmos Energy Corporation with its principal office at 810 Crescent Centre Drive, Franklin, Tennessee, is a wholly owned subsidiary of its parent company Atmos Energy Corporation, located in Dallas, Texas. Atmos is a multi-state gas distributor, providing service to multiple communities in Tennessee. The gas to serve these areas is obtained from Atmos Energy Marketing (AEM)¹ and other suppliers, and delivered by four natural gas pipelines in accordance with separate and individual tariffs approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The four interstate pipelines are East Tennessee Natural Gas ("ETNG"), Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation ("TETC"), Columbia Gulf Transmission Corporation ("CGTC"), and Texas Gas Transmission Corporation ("TGTC").

ETNG provides service to Atmos in Tennessee for the Columbia, Shelbyville, Lynchburg, Maryville-Alcoa, Morristown, Bristol, Elizabethton, Gray, Greeneville, Johnson City, and Kingsport areas.

TETC and CGTC provide service to Atmos in Tennessee for Murfreesboro, Nolensville, Franklin, and adjacent areas in Rutherford and Williamson Counties.

TGTC provides service to Atmos in Union City, Tennessee and adjacent areas in Obion County.

IV. BACKGROUND ON WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT RIDER

On September 26, 1991, the Tennessee Public Service Commission² ("PSC") approved a three-year experimental Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider³ to the tariffs of Chattanooga Gas Company, Nashville Gas Company, a division of Piedmont Gas Company, Inc. and United Cities Gas Company.⁴ The WNA Rider was to be applied to residential and commercial customers' bills during the months of October through May of each year (See Attachment 1). On June 21, 1994, the PSC issued an Order authorizing the above mentioned gas companies to permanently implement an amended version⁵ of the WNA Rider. Atmos is authorized to calculate WNA adjustments during the months of November through April of each year. The TRA Staff audits these calculations annually.

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¹ Atmos Energy Marketing is the wholly owned marketing arm of Atmos Energy Corporation.

³ See petition of Chattanooga Gas Company, Nashville Gas Company, a Division of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. and United Cities Gas Company for a Rulemaking Hearing to Adopt a Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) Rider, Docket No. 91-01712, Order (September 26, 1991).

² By legislative action, the Public Service Commission was replaced on July 1, 1996 by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. See Act of May 24, 1995, ch. 305, 1995 Tenn. Pub. Acts 450. The TRA retains jurisdiction over the above named gas companies. See Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104: see also Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-101 (a) (defining public utility).

⁴ On July 31, 1997, United Cities Gas Company was acquired by Atmos Energy Corporation located in Dallas, Texas. Following the acquisition, the Company continued operating as United Cities Gas Company, a division of Atmos Energy Corporation. On September 4, 2002, Atmos Energy Corporation filed tariffs with the Authority to cease the use of the name "United Cities Gas Company" and to reflect the corporate name of "Atmos Energy Corporation." Effective October 1, 2002, Atmos Energy Corporation announced that all divisions of the company would start doing business as Atmos EnergyTM.

⁵ The amendment directed Chattanooga Gas Company and United Cities Gas Company to eliminate from their WNA Rider the shoulder months of October and May, and Nashville Gas Company to eliminate the shoulder months of October, April and May.

In setting rates, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority uses a normalized level of revenues and expenses for a test year, which is designed to be the most reasonable estimate of the Company's operations during the time the rates are to be in effect. Use of normalized operating levels eliminates unusual fluctuations that may occur during the test period, which causes rates to be set too high or too low.

Specifically, one part of normalizing revenues consists of either increasing or decreasing the test year weather related sales volumes to reflect the difference between the normal and actual heating degree days. (A heating degree day is calculated as the difference in the average daily temperature and 65 degrees Fahrenheit.) This average daily temperature constitutes normal weather and is determined based on the previous thirty years weather data.

Normal weather rarely occurs. This has two impacts:

- (1) The customers' bills fluctuate dramatically due to changes in weather from month to month; and
- (2) The gas companies earn more or less than their authorized rate of return. For example, if weather is colder than normal, then more gas than anticipated in the rate case will be sold. This results in higher customer bills and overearnings for the company. On the other hand, if weather is warmer than normal, less gas than anticipated in the rate case will be sold, the customers' bills will be lower and the company will underearn.

In recognition of this fact, the TRA approved an experimental WNA mechanism, which became permanent on June 21, 1994, to reduce the impact abnormal weather has on the customers' bills and on the gas utilities' operations. In periods of weather colder than normal, the customer receives a credit on his bill, while in periods of warmer than normal weather, the customer is billed a surcharge. Thus, customers' monthly bills should not fluctuate as dramatically and the gas company should have a more stable rate of return.

V. IMPACT OF WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT RIDER

The graphs appearing at the end of this section show a comparison of actual heating degree days to normal heating degree days for Atmos Energy Corporation during the 2005 - 2006 heating season, in each of its four service areas. During the past winter, overall, weather was 6.41% warmer in the Bristol area, 8.79% warmer in the Knoxville area, 9.32% warmer in the Nashville area, and 4.39% warmer in the Paducah area compared to normal. The following tables show a comparison of the actual degree days (ADD) to normal degree days (NDD) by month for the four weather stations.

Bristol:

Month	Actual Heating Degree Days	Normal Heating Degree Days	Warmer/Colder than Normal
October 2005	225	268	Warmer
November 2005	500	531	Warmer
December 2005	922	805	Colder
January 2006	673	937	Warmer
February 2006	789	756	Colder
March 2006	578	553	Colder
April 2006	<u>182</u>	<u>284</u>	Warmer
Total	<u>3,869</u>	<u>4,134</u>	Warmer

Knoxville:

Month	Actual Heating Degree Days	Normal Heating Degree Days	Warmer/Colder than Normal
October 2005	187	204	Warmer
November 2005	416	460	Warmer
December 2005	844	726	Colder
January 2006	593	853	Warmer
February 2006	674	665	Colder
March 2006	444	463	Warmer
April 2006	<u>102</u>	<u>203</u>	Warmer
Total	<u>3,260</u>	<u>3,574</u>	Warmer

Nashville:

Month	Actual Normal Heating Degree Days Days		Warmer/Colder than Normal
October 2005	196	190	Colder
November 2005	419	451	Warmer
December 2005	845	729	Colder
January 2006	578	870	Warmer
February 2006	677	678	Warmer
March 2006	439	466	Warmer
April 2006	<u>97</u>	<u>201</u>	Warmer
Total	<u>3,251</u>	<u>3,585</u>	Warmer

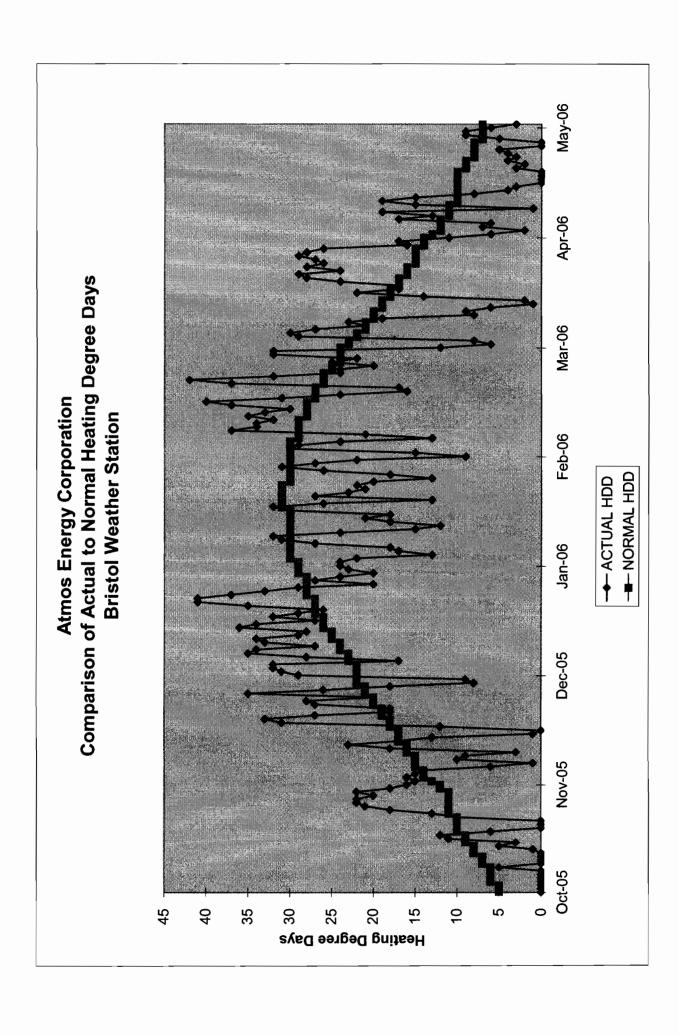
Paducah:

Month	Actual Normal Heating Degree Days Days		Warmer/Colder than Normal
October 2005	233	197	Colder
November 2005	457	483	Warmer
December 2005	941	797	Colder
January 2006	644	954	Warmer
February 2006	779	736	Colder
March 2006	511	503	Colder
April 2006	<u>134</u>	<u>199</u>	Warmer
Total	<u>3,699</u>	<u>3,869</u>	Warmer

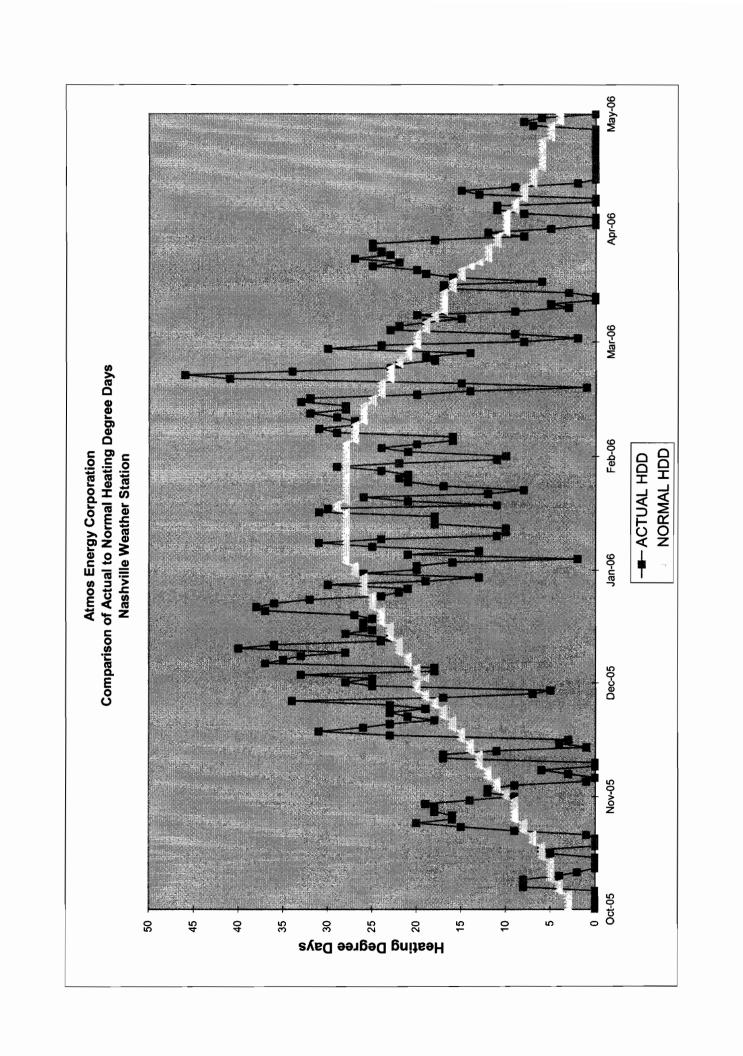
Due to the fact that overall the winter was warmer than normal, the net impact the WNA Rider had on the Company's revenues was that residential and commercial customers were **surcharged** \$933,261 and \$485,878 respectively. This equates to an increase in revenues from residential and commercial sales of 0.98% and 0.77% respectively. (See Table 1) The previous year, due to warmer than normal weather, the residential and commercial customers were **surcharged** \$1,728,633 and \$787,439 respectively. (See Table 2)

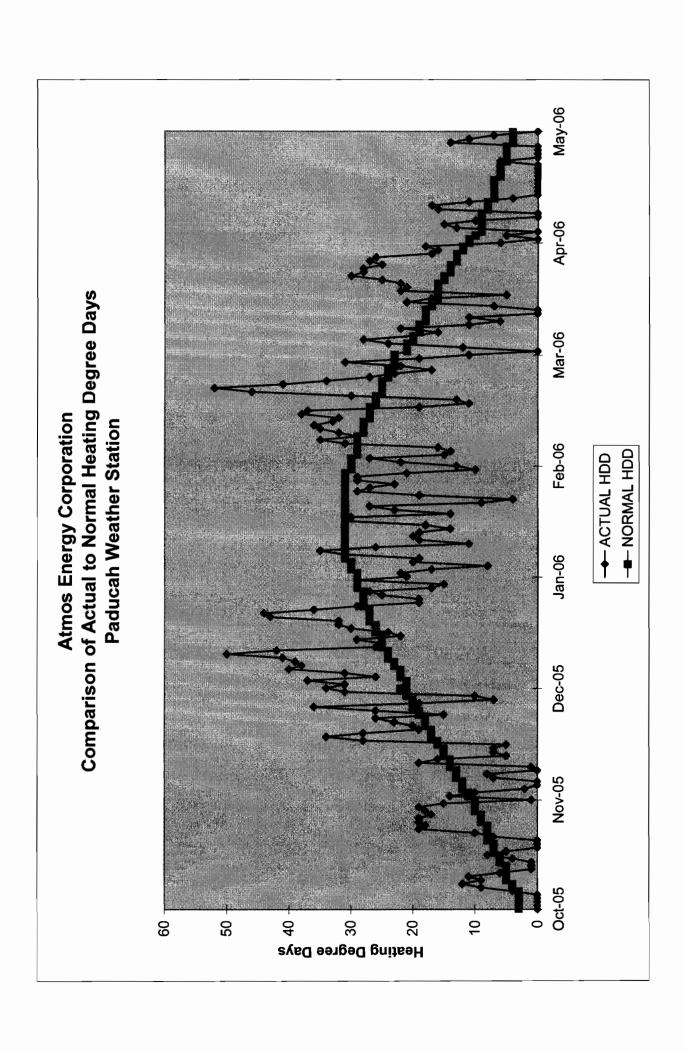
Table 1 Impact of WNA Rider on Residential & Commercial Revenues November 2005 - April 2006 Percentage Impact of WNA Rider WNA Rider Tota1 On Revenues Revenues Revenues Residential Sales 0.98% \$933,261 \$95,585,932 0.77% 62,993,804 Commercial Sales 485,878 **\$1,419,139** 0.89% Total \$158,579,736

Table 2 Amount Surcharged (Refunded) 2003 - 2006				
	Residential	Commercial	Total Surcharge/(Refund)	
11/03-4/04	\$669,763	\$278,638	\$948,401	
11/04-4/05	1,728,633	787,439	2,516,072	
11/05-4/06	933,261	485,878	<u>1,419,139</u>	
Total	<u>\$3,331,657</u>	<u>\$1,551,955</u>	<u>\$4,883,612</u>	



May-06 Apr-06 Comparison of Actual to Normal Heating Degree Days Mar-06 **Atmos Energy Corporation Knoxville Weather Station** Feb-06 → ACTUAL HDD Jan-06 Dec-05 Nov-05 Oct-05 64 25 35 20 3 Heating Degree Days





VI. WNA AUDIT FINDINGS

As noted in Sections I and II of this report, Audit Staff had two findings. The findings identified that the Company used incorrect actual degree days for twenty-five (25) days totaling a net of thirty-nine (39) degree days in their WNA calculations which resulted in an over-recovery from the Company's customers and identified two customers sampled that were billed at the incorrect PGA rate.

The findings are considered immaterial when compared with the total WNA revenue and Audit Staff believes that the Company is materially complying with the WNA Rider.

FINDING #1:

Exception

The Company used inaccurate actual daily heating degree days in the calculation of the WNA factor.

Discussion

The audit period consisted of 848 weather observations (212 days in the period times four weather stations). Audit results indicate that the Company used inaccurate actual daily heating degree days in the calculation of the WNA factor on six (6) days for the Bristol weather station, seven (7) days for the Knoxville weather station, six (6) days for the Nashville weather station and six (6) days for the Paducah weather station for a total of twenty-five (25) weather observations. These inaccuracies are due to differences in daily heating degree days published in NOAA's Local Climatological Data report⁶ and the daily heating degree days that the Company used in calculating its WNA factors.⁷ The Company must obtain actual degree day information from a weather information source on a real time basis. The WNA Rider and the Audit Staff's audit of this Rider are based on the official NOAA publication. Audit Staff recognizes that discrepancies can be caused by the Company's weather information source through no fault of the Company. Audit Staff encourages the Company to attempt to locate an alternate weather information source.

Weather Station/ Date	Company Actual Degree Days	NOAA Actual Degree Days	Difference
Bristol:			
10/22/05	9	10	1
11/16/05	11	12	1
1/30/06	19	15	-4
2/1/06	28	29	1
3/10/06	8	9	1
4/1/06	1	2	1
		Total	<u>1</u>

⁶ This published report is the official data supplied by NOAA and is the standard that the Staff uses to audit the Weather Normalization Rider.

⁷ See Table below for detail of the differences.

Weather Station/	Company	NOAA	
Date	Actual Degree Days	Actual Degree Days	Difference
Knoxville:			
11/16/05	11	12	1
11/29/05	17	18	1
12/5/05	24	29	5
12/15/05	27	28	1
2/6/06	29	28	-1
3/15/06	15	18	3
3/21/06	17	18	<u>1</u>
_		Total	<u>11</u>
Nashville:		-	
11/22/05	22	23	1
11/29/05	14	25	11
1/14/06	30	31	1
1/22/06	14	21	7
2/27/06	23	24	1
4/3/06	7	8	<u>1</u>
_		Total	22
Paducah:		_	
11/9/05	0	1	1
12/19/05	42	43	1
12/24/05	18	19	1
1/4/06	18	19	1
1/11/06	21	19	-2
4/27/06	8	11	
-	_	Total	
-		Net of 4 Stations	3 <u>5</u> 39

Recommendation

This degree day difference resulted in a **net over-recovery of \$85,090** in WNA revenues. Since the dollar amount of this finding is immaterial on a per customer basis, Audit Staff recommends including the over-recovery in the Company's next Actual Cost Adjustment filing.

Company Response

The company regrets the over billing due to inaccurate third party reporting.

FINDING #2:

Exception

The Company used inaccurate PGA rates for two (2) of nineteen (19) Union City customers tested.

Discussion

While conducting the annual bill audit, Audit Staff identified two Union City customers that were billed at an incorrect PGA rate. During discussions with the Company, it was determined that the identified customers were billed at the PGA rate in effect for Bristol, Knoxville and Nashville (Other Tennessee Towns). The results were that one customer was over-billed and one customer was under-billed. As a result of this finding, Audit Staff requested that the Company run reports to identify all Union City customers that were billed the PGA rate for Other Tennessee Towns in error.

The Company provided Audit Staff a listing of all Union City customers that have been billed incorrect PGA rates. This analysis indicated that nine (9) customers were under-billed a net total of \$206.87 and that ten (10) customers were over-billed a net total of \$565.14.

The Company proposes to absorb the total under-billing of \$206.87 and immediately credit customers that were over-billed a net total of \$565.14.

Recommendation

Audit Staff concurs with the Company proposal to address the billings that were made in error. Audit Staff would also request that the Company submit copies of customer bills reflecting the credits when made.

Company Response

The company will credit the customers' bill during the month of October. A copy of the bills showing the corrections will be provided to staff when all bills are billed.

The Rate administration department has a way to check for this type of problems and will watch the billing results to insure errors of this type will not continue long without correction.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Company has satisfactorily responded to the Audit Staff's Finding #1. As stated in Section I, except for the finding noted, Audit Staff concludes that it appears that Atmos is correctly implementing the mechanics of its WNA Rider in all material respects. We recommend that the Company include the over-collection in its next Actual Cost Adjustment filing with the TRA. This is the method the Company has customarily used.

With regards to Finding #2, the Company has agreed to absorb the total under-billing of \$206.87 and immediately credit customers that were over-billed a total of \$565.14. Additionally, the Company has agreed to submit copies of customer bills reflecting the credits when made. As stated in Section II, except for the finding noted and the one bill to which the applicable franchise tax was not applied, Audit Staff concludes that it appears that the Company is accurately billing its customers.

Audit Staff acknowledges and appreciates the cooperation of Atmos personnel during the course of this audit.

WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER

Provisions for Adjustment

The base rate per therm/Ccf (100,000 Btu) for gas service set forth in any Rate Schedules utilized by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority in determining normalized test period revenues shall be adjusted by an amount hereinafter described, which amount is referred to as the "Weather Normalization Adjustment." The Weather Normalization Adjustment shall apply to all residential and commercial bills based on meters read during the revenue months of November through April.

Definitions

For purpose of this Rider:

"Regulatory Authority" means the Tennessee Regulatory Authority

"Relevant Rate Order" means the final order of the Regulatory Authority in the most recent litigated rate case of the Company fixing the rates of the Company or the most recent final order of the Regulatory Authority specifically prescribing or fixing the factors and procedures to be used in the application of this Rider.

Computation of Weather Normalization Adjustment

The Weather Normalization Adjustment shall be computed to the nearest one-hundredth cent per therm/Ccf by the following formula:

$$WNA_{i} = R_{i} \frac{(HSF_{i} \quad (NDD-ADD))}{(BL_{i} + (HSF_{i} \times ADD))}$$

Where

 R_{i}

i = any particular Rate Schedule or billing classification within any such particular Rate Schedule that contains more than one billing classification

WNA_i = Weather Normalization Adjustment Factor for the ith rate schedule or classification expressed in cents per therm/Ccf

weighted average base rate of temperature sensitive sales for the ith schedule or classification utilized by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized

October 4, 2002

test year revenues

Issued by: Patricia J. Childers, VP Rates and Regulatory Affairs Effective Date:

Date Issued: September 4, 2002

WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER (Continued)

HSF_i = heat sensitive factor for the ith schedule or classification utilized by the Regulatory Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized test year revenues

NDD = normal billing cycle heating degree days utilized by the Regulatory Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized test year revenues

ADD = actual billing cycle heating degree days

Bl_i = base load sales for the ith schedule or classification utilized by the Regulatory
Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized test
year revenues

Filing with Regulatory Authority

The Company will file as directed by the Regulatory Authority (a) a copy of each computation of the Weather Normalization Adjustment, (b) a schedule showing the effective date of each such Weather Normalization Adjustment, and (c) a schedule showing the factors or values derived from the Relevant Rate Order used in calculating such Weather Normalization Adjustment.

Heat Use/Base Use Factors

	Residential		<u>Commercial</u>	
Town	Base use <u>Ccf</u>	Heat use Ccf/HDD	Base use <u>Ccf</u>	Heat use Ccf/HDD
Union City	13.906292	.156369	124.595029	.453633
Columbia Shelbyville Franklin Murfreesboro	13.035323	.173948	99.021858	.624513
Maryville Morristown	13.886330	.153366	111.454966	.658649
Johnson City Elizabethton Kingsport Greeneville Bristol	10.696903	.162066	169.773651	.611201

Issued by:

Patricia J. Childers, VP Rates and Regulatory Affairs

Date Issued: Septer

September 4, 2002

Effective Date:

October 4, 2002