

**IN THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

IN RE: TARIFF FILING TO MODIFY)	
AND ADD LANGUAGE REGARDING)	TRA DOCKET NO. 07-00020
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE)	

IN RE: PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY)	
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF)	TRA DOCKET NO. 07-00081
TARIFF ESTABLISHING ENVIRON-)	
MENTAL COST RECOVERY RIDER)	

IN RE: PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY)	
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A)	TRA DOCKET NO. 07-00105
GENERAL RATE INCREASE)	

MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE DOCKETS

Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee, by and through the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate”), pursuant to TRA Rule 1220-1-2-.22(2), respectfully requests the Authority to consolidate the dockets pending in *In re: Tariff Filing to Modify and Add Language Regarding Transportation Service*, TRA Docket No. 07-00020; *In re: Petition of Atmos Energy Corporation for Approval of Tariff Establishing Environmental Cost Recovery Rider*, TRA Docket No. 07-00081; and *In re: Petition of Atmos Energy Corporation for Approval of a General Rate Increase*, TRA Docket No. 07-00105. As grounds for this motion, the Consumer Advocate states as follows:

1. On January 10, 2007, Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos”) filed in Docket No. 07-00020 a tariff seeking approval for modifications to its transportation service. The tariff proposes to increase the rates and charges for Atmos’s transportation service customers. The issues in Docket No. 07-00020 are essentially the same as the transportation issues raised in the Phase 1 hearing on Atmos’s rates conducted in Docket No. 05-00258, in which rates were set for Atmos which are

currently in effect. The Atmos Intervention Group (“AIG”), SouthStar Energy Services, LLC, (“SouthStar”) and Stand Energy Corporation (“Stand Energy”) have filed complaints and petitions to intervene in Docket No. 07-00020. Additionally, the Consumer Advocate has filed a petition to intervene in this docket.

2. On March 29, 2007, Atmos filed in Docket No. 07-00081 a petition seeking approval for an environmental cost recovery rider. The petition proposes to increase the rates and charges for Atmos’s customers. The issues in Docket No. 07-00081 are essentially the same as the environmental cost issues raised in the Phase 1 hearing on Atmos’s rates conducted in Docket No. 05-00258. The Consumer Advocate and AIG have filed petitions to intervene in Docket No. 07-00081.

3. On May 4, 2007, Atmos filed in Docket No. 07-00105 a petition seeking approval for a general rate increase. The Consumer Advocate and AIG have filed petitions to intervene in this docket.

4. Docket Nos. 07-00020, 07-00081, and 07-00105 all involve general ratemaking and rate design issues. In each of these dockets, Atmos has requested the Authority to approve increases in regulated rates and charges; and in each docket Atmos has made specific rate design proposals that would adversely affect the amount that customers pay for regulated natural gas utilities services. Moreover, Atmos proposes to implement its three requests for new rates either at or near the same time. Essentially, Atmos has three rate cases pending simultaneously — the ratemaking and design issues in each of the dockets impact the analysis in each of the other dockets.¹ Because the Authority

¹ Indeed, both the transportation issues in Docket No. 07-00020 and the environmental cost issues in Docket No. 07-00081 were raised by Atmos in Phase 1 of Docket No. 05-00258, which was a general ratemaking proceeding.

is called upon to exercise its general ratemaking powers in each case, it would benefit the Authority to examine these cases together as it considers the level of overall revenue requirements that are just and reasonable for Atmos going forward, as well as the appropriate rate design to generate those revenues.

5. All of these dockets involve the same parties, with one exception. SouthStar and Stand Energy have filed petitions only in Docket No. 07-00020. If these cases are consolidated, however, SouthStar and Stand Energy may appear in the consolidated docket as the circumstances warrant, which is no different than in prior rate cases where various parties have participated only in a limited number of the issues under consideration.

6. None of these dockets has proceeded past the discovery phase. The parties are still conducting their investigation and discovery of the issues in each docket. At this point, the cases could be consolidated for pre-filed testimony, hearing, argument, and decision. Consolidating the dockets for these purposes would promote judicial economy and maximize the limited resources of the parties and the Authority.

7. Procedural schedules for Docket Nos. 07-00081 and 07-00105 have been established and are running virtually concurrently; thus, the work in these dockets is already being performed at about the same time.

8. The Consumer Advocate suggests that the procedural schedule for pre-filed testimony, hearing, and argument already established in Docket No. 07-00105 would be a suitable schedule for the consolidated docket. However, the Consumer Advocate expresses no preference for the manner in which the cases are consolidated or for the Authority panel who hears the consolidated case.

Wherefore, the Consumer Advocate respectfully requests that Docket Nos. 07-00020, 07-00081, and 07-00105 be consolidated for purposes of filing pre-filed testimony, hearing, argument, and decision on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Cooper, Jr.
Attorney General and Reporter
State of Tennessee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joe Shirley", is written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and exact copy of the foregoing was served via email or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to:

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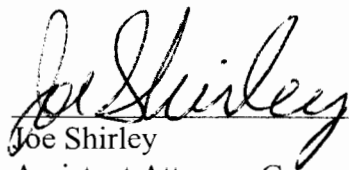
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on this the 26th day of June, 2007


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