

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

IN RE:)
)
PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY) DOCKET NO. 07-00081
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF)
T A R I F F E S T A B L I S H I N G)
ENVIRONMENTAL COST RECOVERY)
RIDER)

PETITION TO INTERVENE

Robert E. Cooper, Jr., the Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee, through the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate”), pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118, respectfully petitions to intervene in this docket on behalf of the public interest, because consumers may be adversely affected by the requested rate increase of Atmos Energy Corporation. For cause, the Petitioner would show as follows:

1. The Consumer Advocate is authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118 to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers by initiating contested cases and by participating or intervening in proceedings in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act and Tennessee Regulatory Authority rules.

2. Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos”) is a public utility regulated by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“Authority”). Atmos sells and distributes natural gas to consumers in the State of Tennessee. Atmos’s principal place of business is 810 Crescent Centre Drive, Suite 600, Franklin, Tennessee 37067-6226.

3. On March 29, 2007, Atmos petitioned the Authority for approval of an Environmental Cost Recovery Rider to become effective June 1, 2007. If the Authority approves the petition of Atmos in its present form, rates that consumers pay for natural gas utility service would increase by \$904,918.72 annually. The total dollar amount of the requested increase is \$2,714,756.72.

4. In Docket No. 05-00258, *In re: Petition of the Consumer Advocate to Open an Investigation to Determine Whether Atmos Energy Corp. Should Be Required by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to Appear and Show Cause That Atmos Energy Corp. Is Not Overearning in Violation of Tennessee Law and That It Is Charging Rates That Are Just and Reasonable*, the Consumer Advocate opposed Atmos's proposal to use the environmental costs that are alleged in this proceeding as a basis for a rate increase in that docket. The Authority did not approve any increase in customer rates for the recovery of environmental costs that Atmos alleged in Docket No. 05-00258.

5. The Consumer Advocate has conducted a preliminary review of this matter and believes that an increase in customer rates may not be warranted or that the amount of the requested increase may be too high and may not be just and reasonable under the attendant circumstances.

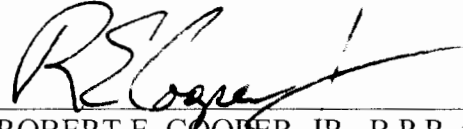
6. Additional investigation and discovery will be needed to determine whether any increase in customer rates is warranted and, if so, the appropriate amount of any such increase.

7. On April, 16, 2007, the Authority convened a contested case proceeding in this matter.

8. Only by intervening and participating in this proceeding can the Consumer Advocate work adequately to protect the interests of consumers.

Wherefore, Petitioner asks the Authority to grant the Petition to Intervene.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



ROBERT E. COOPER, JR., B.P.R. #10934
Attorney General and Reporter
State of Tennessee



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Dated: April 27, 2007

#106557


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via U.S. Mail or facsimile on April 27, 2007.

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