

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

December 21, 2007

IN RE:

DOCKET TO EVALUATE ATMOS
ENERGY CORPORATION'S GAS
PURCHASES AND RELATED SHARING
INCENTIVES


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DOCKET NO.
07-00225

ORDER ON THE PROTECTIVE ORDER DISPUTE PROCESS

This docket came before the Hearing Officer upon the filing of a letter expressing the agreement of all parties to "either submit an Agreed Protective Order or competing drafts of Proposed Protective Orders (or competing provisions), along with any desired support, to the Hearing Officer on or before 2:00 p.m. on January 4, 2008."¹ The letter continues, "[w]e trust that this arrangement is acceptable to the Hearing Officer."² I find the date acceptable, but remind the parties that as part of the procedural schedule previously adopted in this docket, the parties were instructed in the event that an agreement as to the protective order could not be reached to file "a statement of the disputed issues along with the parties' positions."³ Whatever the form of the filings to be made on January 4, 2008, all parties shall clearly detail the disputes and set forth their positions with specificity.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDER THAT:

The proposed filing date contained in the letter filed on December 21, 2007, is accepted and the parties are instructed to clearly detail any disputed issues and set forth positions with specificity.



Ron Jones, Director
Acting as Hearing Officer⁴

¹ Letter to Director Ron Jones from Melvin J. Malone, dated December 20, 2007, p. 1 (Dec. 21, 2007).

² *Id.*

³ *Order on November 5, 2007 Pre-Hearing Conference*, p. 7 (Nov. 8, 2007).

⁴ During the deliberations in Docket Nos. 05-00253 and 05-00258 on August 20, 2007, the panel voted to open a new docket and appointed Director Jones to serve as the Hearing Officer for the purposes of preparing the newly-opened docket for hearing by the panel. *See Transcript of Authority Conference*, pp. 36-50 (Aug. 20, 2007).