BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:		
PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF ADJUSTMENT OF ITS RATES AND REFISED TARIFF)))	DOCKET NO. 08-00197

FIRST DISCOVERY REQUEST OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION TO CONSUMER ADVOCATE AND PROTECTION DIVISION

TO: Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Advocate and Protection Division
c/o Timothy Phillips, Esq.
P. O. Box 20207
Nashville, TN 37202

This Discovery Request is served pursuant to Rules 26, 33, 34 and 36 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure and Tenn. Comp. R. & Reg. 1220-1-2-.11.

- 1. Please identify each person whom you expect to call as an expert witness at the hearing on the merits in this docket, and for each such expert witness:
 - (a) Provide a complete educational, professional and employment history. Include in your response a complete disclosure of all aspects of the expert's education and employment background that you contend qualify the witness to render expert testimony on the issues on which he will testify in this case. Please be sure to include the date(s) applicable to each entry;
 - (b) Separately for each expert witness, list all degrees, licenses, and certifications that the witness holds in any of the areas in which he will offer expert testimony in this case. Also include the entity that awarded the degree, license, or certification, and the year in which it was awarded;
 - (c) Separately for each expert witness, list each published scholarly work (article, book chapter, book, etc.) that the witness has written on any of the subjects about which he will offer expert testimony in this case. Provide a citation to the work that includes the title, date, and publication. Indicate

- whether the work was subject to peer review before publication. Produce and separately identify all such works;
- (d) List all other scholarly works that each of your experts has written. Provide a citation to the work that includes the title, date, and publication. Indicate whether the work was subject to peer review before publication. Produce and separately identify all such works.
- (e) Separately for each expert witness, list and describe each scholarly presentation that the witness has made on any of the subjects about which he will offer expert testimony in this case. Provide the subject of the presentation, the group to which the presentation was made, and the title and subject of the presentation. Produce and separately identify all written materials from each such presentation.
- (f) List and describe all other scholarly presentations that each of your experts has made. Provide the subject of the presentation, the group to which the presentation was made, and the title and subject of the presentation. Produce and separately identify all written materials from each such presentation.
- (g) Identify each matter in which the expert has testified or submitted prefiled written testimony on any subject about which he intends to offer expert testimony in this case. For each matter, provide the name, docket number, forum, dates of testimony, whether the testimony was live or written, and the subjects on which the expert offered testimony in the case. Produce a copy of all such testimony (in electronic form if available).
- (h) Identify and produce any exhibits to be used in conjunction with each expert's testimony in this case; and
- (i) Produce each expert's entire file in this case, including all work papers, drafts, correspondence, spreadsheets, documents collected, summaries, charts, trade articles, journals, treatises, publications, file notes, chart notes, tests, test results, interview notes, and consultation notes provided to, reviewed by, utilized by, relied upon, created by, or produced by the expert witness in this matter. Where available, please provide working Excel files (or other data file types if applicable).

2. Produce copies of all hearing exhibits that you plan to introduce, use, or reference

at the hearing on the merits in this docket.

RESPONSE:

3. Please provide computer files containing all documentation, workpapers, and

calculations supporting the CAPD's pre-filed testimony. The workpapers and calculations

should be in Excel 2003 working format with numbers, formulas and linked files provided.

RESPONSE:

4. Produce a copy of all hearing transcripts from, Docket 08-00039, In Re: Petition

of Tennessee American Water Company, etc. Production in searchable electronic form is

preferred if available.

RESPONSE:

5. Please describe in detail with supporting calculations all of the steps the CAPD

utilized in calculating the following amounts on the spreadsheet titled E-REC SUMMARY:

Column CAPD: Payroll \$3,324,590

Column ATMOS: Pension Expense \$757,237

Column CAPD: Pension Expense \$750,920

Column ATMOS: LTIP Expense \$359,058

Column CAPD: LTIP Expense \$301,048

Column ATMOS: Rate Case Expense \$130,270

Column CAPD: Rate Case Expense \$32,583

RESPONSE:

6. In this case as in other past cases, the Consumer Advocate's witnesses offer

forecasts of the utility's future revenue and costs. Has the Consumer Advocate or any of its

analysts ever reviewed or studied the accuracy of their past forecasts or forecasting

methodologies? If so, provide a reasonable description of the methodology employed in each

such review or study, the results thereof, and produce any reports, spreadsheets, or other

documents related thereto.

RESPONSE:

7. Produce the final order(s) and any associated memorandum opinions in TRA

Docket 96-00977.

RESPONSE:

8. Produce a copy of the incentive plan referenced on page 8, line 1 of the pre-filed

testimony of CAPD witness Dave Peters.

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RESPONSE:

9. Produce all testimony (written or live) in TRA Docket 96-00977 that relates to the incentive plan referenced on page 8, line 1 of the pre-filed testimony of CAPD witness Dave Peters.

RESPONSE:

10. Do ratepayers benefit from a utility controlling expenses while continuing to provide safe and reliable natural gas service.

RESPONSE:

11. List each case in which CAPD witness Terry Buckner has provided testimony (written or live) regarding a forecast of operating revenues for a company, by revenue class or in total. For each such case, provide the following information: utility name, docket number, the timeframe used to calculate the forecast, the operating revenue forecast recommended by Terry Buckner; the utility's operating revenue forecast. You may limit your response to the time period since Terry Buckner has been employed by the Tennessee Public Service Commission.

12. List each case in which CAPD witness Terry Buckner has provided testimony (written or live) regarding the cost of service for a company. For each such case, provide the following information: utility name, docket number, the cost of service recommended by Terry Buckner; the utility's requested cost of service. You may limit your response to the time period since Terry Buckner has been employed by the Tennessee Public Service Commission.

RESPONSE:

13. List each case in which CAPD witness Terry Buckner has provided testimony (written or live) on subject matter other than operating revenue forecast or cost of service. For each such case, provide the following information: utility name, docket number, the subject matter addressed by Terry Buckner. You may limit your response to the time period since Terry Buckner has been employed by the Tennessee Public Service Commission.

RESPONSE:

14. List each case in which CAPD witness Dave Peters has provided testimony (written or live). For each such case, provide the following information: utility name, docket number, the subject matter addressed by Dave Peters.

15. Provide a detailed description of Dave Peter's work experience at the TRA, at Dell Computers and at Nortel Networks.

RESPONSE:

16. Please provide a copy of all testimony (written or live) in TRA Docket 99-00994 that relates to pension contributions, pension funding, and/or pension expense recovery.

RESPONSE:

17. Describe in detail the analysis performed by Dave Peters that forms the basis of his belief expressed on Page 12, Lines 2 and 3 of his pre-filed testimony that "I believe that it [a three – year amortization of rate case expense] is more likely to reflect the actual pace of rate cases that can be expected in the future."

RESPONSE:

18. Provide a listing of "prior TRA decisions" referred to on Page 12, line 1 in the pre-filed testimony of CAPD witness Dave Peters. For each, include the date, case style, docket number, and the date and title of the order or other pleading in which the decision is reflected in the record. Produce a copy of each such decision.

19. Describe in detail the analysis performed by CAPD witness Dave Peters that forms the basis of his opinion contained on Page 11, Lines 11 and 12 that "this growth rate [in shared services and division general office] ... is unwarranted, unjust, and unreasonable."

RESPONSE:

20. Identify each and every specific cost in the shared services division and in the KY/Mid-States division general office that the Consumer Advocate's witnesses determined was not just, reasonable, and prudently incurred. For each such identified cost, please describe the basis for such determination.

RESPONSE:

21. Describe in detail all of the steps utilized in calculating or otherwise determining the recommended \$619,143 adjustment to O&M expense reflected on Page 11, Line 7 of the prefiled testimony of CAPD witness Dave Peters.

RESPONSE:

22. List each case in which Steve Brown has provided testimony (written or live) regarding cost of capital or rate of return. For each such case, provide the following information: utility name; docket number; jurisdiction; short term debt cost recommended by Dr. Brown; long term debt cost recommended by Dr. Brown; equity cost of capital recommended by Dr. Brown;

short term debt cost recommended by the utility's witness; long term debt cost recommended by the utility's witness; equity cost of capital recommended by the utility's witness. Aside from the request for case name, docket number, and jurisdiction (which should be provided for all cases in which Dr. Brown has provided testimony regarding cost of capital or rate of return), you may limit your response to the time period since Dr. Brown has been employed by the Consumer Advocate.

RESPONSE:

23. In this case, Steve Brown relies upon the discounted cash flow (DCF) method to establish his recommended return on equity for Atmos, indicating that in his view the DCF method is superior to the capital asset pricing model (CAPM). For each other case in which Dr. Brown has offered testimony (written or live) regarding a utility's cost of equity or return on equity, provide the case name, docket number, and jurisdiction, and indicate the method by which Dr. Brown derived his opinion on the cost of equity and/or return on equity. If Dr. Brown utilized either the DCF and/or CAPM methods, please indicate which one he used as the basis for his opinion.

24. List each undergraduate, graduate, or other academic course in which Steve Brown received education that tends to make Dr. Brown an expert regarding the cost of equity or return on equity for a utility. For each such course, provide the course title, the institution at which Dr. Brown took the course, the year(s), and the final grade that Dr. Brown received.

RESPONSE:

25. List each case in which Steve Brown has provided testimony (written or live) regarding capital structure. For each such case, provide the following information: utility name; docket number; short term debt percentage recommended by Dr. Brown; long term debt percentage recommended by Dr. Brown; short term debt percentage recommended by the utility's witness; long term debt percentage recommended by the utility's witness; long term debt percentage recommended by the utility's witness. You may limit your response to the time period since Dr. Brown has been employed by the Consumer Advocate.

RESPONSE:

26. In this case, Dr. Brown indicates that his recommended capital structure is based upon the five year average capital structure of a group of "comparable companies." For each other case in which Dr. Brown has offered testimony (written or live) regarding capital structure, provide the case name and docket number and a description of the method by which Dr. Brown derived his recommended capital structure. If Dr. Brown derived his recommended capital

structure by reference to a group of comparable companies, for each such case separately list the comparable companies utilized by Dr. Brown. You may limit your response to the time period since Dr. Brown has been employed by the Consumer Advocate.

RESPONSE:

27. List each undergraduate, graduate, or other academic course in which Steve Brown received education that tends to make Dr. Brown an expert on the appropriate capital structure for a utility. For each such course, provide the course title, the institution at which Dr. Brown took the course, the year(s), and the final grade that Dr. Brown received.

RESPONSE:

28. Produce and separately identify all of the 10-K reports or other audited financial information for comparable companies (or potential comparable companies) that Steve Brown reviewed in connection with this case.

RESPONSE:

29. Produce and separately identify all unaudited financial information that Steve Brown reviewed in connection with this case.

30. What is the source of the data used to create the table of "Shares Outstanding and Method To Increase Shares OutStanding [sic.]" appearing on page 27 of Steve Brown's direct testimony in this matter? Produce and separately identify the source data.

RESPONSE:

31. What is the source of the data used to create the tables labeled "Cost of Equity: DCF Model," appearing on page 40 of Steve Brown's direct testimony in this matter? Produce and separately identify the source data.

RESPONSE:

32. Identify every case in which the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Tennessee Public Service Commission, or any other court or regulatory body in any jurisdiction has adopted the capital cost recommended in testimony offered by Steve Brown. For each such case, provide the case name, docket number, jurisdiction, indicate whether Dr. Brown's recommended capital cost was contested by the utility, and provide the capital cost that was recommended by Dr. Brown and adopted by the agency.

RESPONSE:

33. Identify every case about which the Consumer Advocate or any of its witnesses or analysts have knowledge in which the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Tennessee Public

Service Commission, or any other utility regulatory body has adopted a total weighted capital cost of 6.5% or lower, or an equity cost of 7.8% or lower. For each such case, provide the case name, jurisdiction, docket number, the name of the utility involved, and the weighted capital cost and equity cost that was adopted in the case.

RESPONSE:

34. Identify by the URL and produce a copy of each internet web page that Steve Brown reviewed in his work on this case, including those that he reviewed and ultimately decided not to utilize in support of his testimony.

RESPONSE:

35. Up through the submission of his written direct testimony in this case, how many hours did Steve Brown spend working on this case? Of those, how many hours did Dr. Brown spend searching for and reviewing information on the internet?

RESPONSE:

36. In his written direct testimony, Steve Brown quotes a number of people and/or organizations that are neither parties nor witnesses in this case. Separately for each, produce and separately identify the full source material from which the quoted portion was excerpted; and produce and separately identify all other statements by each such person and/or organization that Dr. Brown reviewed but did not quote in his direct testimony.

RESPONSE:

37. Has the University of Denver ever offered post-graduate degrees (i.e. masters or PhDs) in economics? Did the University of Denver offer such degrees when Dr. Brown studied there?

RESPONSE:

38. In his work for the following entities (Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Arizona Electric Cooperative, Houston Lighting & Power, Iowa Utilities Board), did Steve Brown ever offer written or live testimony concerning a utility's cost of capital or capital structure? If so, identify each case in which he offered such testimony, and provide the case name, jurisdiction, utility involved, and the capital cost and capital structure that Dr. Brown recommended in his testimony.

RESPONSE:

39. Identify each statistical method utilized by Steve Brown in connection with the opinions offered by him in this case, identify the page of Dr. Brown's written testimony in which the analysis or its results are discussed, and explain how each method was used in this case.

40. Provide data on the percentage of revenues Energen, Equitable, ONEOK, Questar, and Equitable receive from the sale of oil. **Reference: Brown, p. 3, lines 18 – 20.**

RESPONSE:

- 41. With respect to Dr. Brown's testimony at page 3, lines 32 35, please respond to the following questions.
 - a. Confirm that a company's "cost of equity" is defined as the return investors expect to receive on other investments of the same risk.
 - Confirm that the cost of equity is determined in the capital markets, not by the Alabama Public Service Commission.
 - c. Confirm that the Alabama Public Service Commission determines the allowed return on equity ("ROE"), not the cost of equity.
 - d. Explain in detail why the method of setting Alagasco's allowed ROE in
 Alabama disqualifies Energen as a comparable company.

Reference: Brown, p. 3, lines 32 – 35.

- 42. With respect to Dr. Brown's testimony at page 9, lines 1-31, and page 10, lines 1-9, please provide the following:
 - a. Confirm that Dr. Brown included New Jersey Resources in his comparable group.

b. Confirm that New Jersey Resources receives only 37 percent of its income

from natural gas distribution activities.

Confirm that New Jersey Resources Energy Services accounts for more c.

than 60 percent of New Jersey Resources' income.

Reference: Brown, p. 9, lines 1-31, and p. 10, lines 1-9.

RESPONSE:

43. Provide information on the percent of income Energen, Equitable, ONEOK, and

Questar obtain from combined regulated natural gas distribution, regulated pipeline, and energy

marketing segments. Reference: Brown, p. 4, line 19 to p. 6, line 10.

RESPONSE:

Provide a list of all rate cases in Tennessee where the Tennessee Regulatory 44.

Authority used the average book value capital structure for a group of comparable companies as

the appropriate capital structure for setting rates for the target company. Reference: p. 12, lines

20 - 22.

45. Confirm that the January 16, 2009, issue of *The Value Line Investment Survey Selection & Opinion* indicates that the prime rate as of January 7, 2009, is 3.25 percent and that the prime rate as of October 8, 2008, was 4.50 percent. **Reference: Brown, p. 12.**

- 46. With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony at page 16, line 8, through page 19, lines 32, please respond to the following information requests:
 - a. Dr. Brown claims that investors rely on capital structures that have been verified by independent auditors. What evidence does the Consumer Advocate have to support the proposition that investors rely only on capital structures that have been verified by independent auditors?
 Produce and separately identify all such evidence.
 - As a publicly-traded company, is Atmos Energy required to file quarterly financial statements (10-Qs) with the Securities and Exchange
 Commission?
 - c. Do Atmos Energy's 10-Qs contain information on the Company's capital structure?
 - d. Does Dr. Brown contend that investors do not rely on capital structure information contained in Atmos Energy's quarterly financial statements filed with the SEC?

If the answer to part (d.) is yes, explain why the SEC requires Atmos e.

Energy and other publicly-traded companies to file quarterly financial

statements.

Reference: Brown, p. 16, line 8, to p. 19, line 32.

RESPONSE:

47. With respect to Dr. Brown's testimony at p. 19, lines 29 - 32, please provide the

following information:

Identify and produce any evidence supporting the proposition that the a.

Tennessee Regulatory Authority relies only on "audited balance sheets" to

set rates for public utilities in Tennessee.

Are there any instances in which the Tennessee Regulatory Authority b.

relies on un-audited balance sheets to set rates for public utilities in

Tennessee?

Identify and produce any evidence supporting the proposition that the c.

Tennessee Regulatory Authority considers "audited balance sheets" and

use of balance sheets for comparable companies to be two principles

"central to ratemaking" in Tennessee.

Reference: Brown, p. 19, lines 29 -32.

RESPONSE:

- 18 -

48. With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony at page 14 and at page 22, lines 10 - 16,

please provide the following information:

Identify and produce any evidence supporting the proposition that the a.

Tennessee Regulatory Authority typically relies on "spot" interest rates,

that is, interest rates as of a single day, to determine the allowed interest

rate on short-term debt to set rates for public utilities.

Identify and produce any evidence supporting the proposition that the b.

interest rate on Atmos Energy's short-term debt is based on an average of

the one-month, three-month, and six-month LIBOR interest rate.

Provide data on the average one-month, three-month, and six-month c.

LIBOR interest rates over the twelve months ending December 31, 2008.

Reference: p. 14, and p. 22, lines 10 - 16.

RESPONSE:

49. With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony at pp. 28 – 33, please provide the

following information:

Confirm that the reference on p. 28, line 19, should p. 29 rather than p. 31. a.

Confirm that the five fiscal years referenced in the chart on p. 29 are 2003, b.

2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 for those companies whose fiscal years end

December 31; and that the five fiscal years referenced in the chart on p. 29

are 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 for those companies whose fiscal

years end in either September or October.

Confirm that the average common equity ratio for the comparable c.

companies shown on p. 29 has increased from 43.96 percent at the end of

the earliest fiscal year to 47.33 percent at the end of the most recent fiscal

year.

Confirm that five of Dr. Brown's eight comparable companies have fiscal d.

years ending December 31, that two companies have fiscal years ending

September 30, and one company has a fiscal year ending October 31.

Confirm that natural gas distribution companies typically use short-term e.

debt to finance seasonal inventories of natural gas.

Confirm that natural gas distribution companies typically have f.

significantly higher short-term debt balances at the beginning of the winter

heating season (that is, the fourth quarter of each calendar year) than at

other times.

If (f.) cannot be confirmed, provide data in an Excel spreadsheet with g.

formulae intact on the average capital structure for each of Dr. Brown's

comparable companies at the end of each quarter for the most recent five

year period.

Reference: Brown, pp. 28 - 33.

RESPONSE:

- 20 -

- 50. With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony at pp. 34 38, please provide the following information:
 - a. Confirm that the standards for just and reasonable rates for utility services have been established in *Bluefield Water Works and Improvement Co. v. Public Service Commission* and *Federal Power Commission v. Hope Natural Gas Co.*
 - b. Confirm that in the *Bluefield Water Works* case, the Court states:

A public utility is entitled to such rates as will permit it to earn a return upon the value of the property which it employs for the convenience of the public equal to that generally being made at the same time and in the same general part of the country on investments in other business undertakings which are attended by corresponding risks and uncertainties; but it has no constitutional right to profits such as are realized or anticipated in highly profitable enterprises or speculative ventures. The return should be reasonably sufficient to assure confidence in the financial soundness of the utility, and should be adequate, under efficient and economical management, to maintain and support its credit, and enable it to raise the money necessary for the proper discharge of its public duties. [Bluefield Water Works and Improvement Co. v. Public Service Comm'n. 262 U.S. 679, 692 (1923)].

Reference: Brown, p. 34 - 38.

51. With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony at pp. 39 - 47, please provide the

following information:

Confirm that the DCF model is based on the assumption that a company's a.

current stock price is equal to the present value of investors' expected

future cash flows from investing in the stock.

b. Identify and produce all studies performed by Dr. Brown to support his

view that investors would use the average historical dividend growth from

2003 to 2008 to estimate future cash flow growth from their investments

in stocks.

Identify and produce all studies performed by Dr. Brown to support his c.

hypothesis that "the markets full impact on investors" can be determined

by considering the periods January 2, 2004, to January 2, 2009, and

January 2, 2006, to January 2, 2009. [Brown at 43.]

d. Identify and produce all studies performed by Dr. Brown to support his

view that because investors received little or no capital gains from their

investment in Atmos Energy's stock from January 2, 2004, to January 2,

2009, and January 2, 2006, to January 2, 2009, they do not expect to

receive any capital gains on investments in Atmos Energy's stock in the

future.

Reference: Brown, pp. 39 – 47.

RESPONSE:

- 22 -

52. With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony at pp. 55 - 57, Dr. Brown claims that Dr. Vander Weide's DCF results are a "recycling" of a 2003 analysis performed on behalf of Pacific Gas & Electric in a proceeding before the FERC. As support for his assertion, Dr. Brown compares an image of Dr. Vander Weide's 2003 DCF analysis on behalf of PG&E to his DCF analysis in this proceeding.

a. Are the companies in the two DCF analyses the same?

b. Are the dividends in the two DCF analyses the same?

c. Are the stock prices the same?

d. Are the growth rates the same?

e. Are the DCF results the same for each company that is in both analyses?

f. Did Dr. Vander Weide provide evidence for Atmos Energy in FERC Docket No. ER-04-242-000 in November 2003? [See p. 59, lines 8 – 12.

Reference: Brown, pp. 55 – 57.

RESPONSE:

53. With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony on page 65, please provide the following information:

a. Please identify the FERC witness whose testimony Dr. Brown cites on p. 64, lines
 3 - 6.

b. On whose behalf was this witness providing testimony?

c. Please provide the testimony to which Dr. Brown refers, including all schedules

and supporting work papers.

d. Identify and produce any evidence to support the proposition that the Tennessee

Regulatory Authority relies on the FERC methods cited by Dr. Brown to estimate

the cost of equity for public utilities.

Reference: Brown, p. 65.

RESPONSE:

With reference to Dr. Brown's testimony at pp. 67 - 70, please provide the 54.

following information:

Confirm that JDS Uniphase is not a public utility. a.

Confirm that the cited testimony from Dr. Vander Weide in the JDS b.

Uniphase securities litigation was unrelated to determining JDS

Uniphase's cost of equity.

Confirm that Mr. Barnich is not a cost of capital expert. c.

d. Confirm that Mr. Barnich is a lawyer and has no academic degrees in

finance or economics.

e. Confirm that Mr. Barnich stepped down as Chairman of the Illinois

Commerce Commission shortly after it was revealed to the public that he
had numerous inappropriate telephone conversations with the Chairman of
Commonwealth Edison at a time when Commonwealth Edison had
proceedings in evidence before the Illinois Commerce Commission.

f. Confirm that Dr. Vander Weide concluded and testified that there was no evidence to support Plaintiff's claims against the defendant JDS Uniphase in the cited securities litigation.

g. Confirm that the jury found in favor of the defendant JDS Uniphase in the referenced case.

Reference: Brown, pp. 67 - 70.

RESPONSE:

NEAL & HARWELL, PLC

William T. Ramsey, #9245 A. Scott Ross, #15634

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Counsel for Atmos Energy Corporation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing	g has been served, via the method(s) indicated
below, on the following counsel of record, this the	23 day of January, 2009.

() Hand Vance Broemel, Esq.
() Mail Timothy C. Phillips, Esq.
() Fax Joe Shirley, Esq.
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