

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**November 18, 2008**

<b>IN RE:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION</b>	)	<b>DOCKET NO.</b>
<b>FOR APPROVAL OF ADJUSTMENT OF ITS</b>	)	<b>08-00197</b>
<b>RATES AND REVISED TARIFF</b>	)	

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**ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

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This matter came before the Hearing Officer at a Status Conference held on November 10, 2008. Appearing at the Status Conference was Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos"), represented by A. Scott Ross, and the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate"), represented by Timothy Phillips.

As directed by a previous order of this Hearing Officer, on November 4, 2008, the Consumer Advocate filed its first round of discovery requests together with a *Motion to Ask Additional Discovery Questions in Excess of Forty (40) Questions* ("Motion"). On November 7, 2008, *Atmos Energy Corporation's Objections to First Discovery Request of the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division* was filed in response. Atmos maintained that it did not have sufficient time to attempt to resolve its objections, but stated that it did not object to the Consumer Advocate asking more requests than provided by rule. So without objection, the Hearing Officer granted the Consumer Advocate's *Motion*. Both parties agreed to conscientiously attempt to resolve any discovery disputes, and stated that they would contact the Hearing Officer in the event a dispute could not be amicably resolved.

The parties then proposed a draft procedural schedule, which after discussion, was adopted by the Hearing Officer as follows:

<b>November 4, 2008</b>	<b>First round of discovery requests</b>
<b>November 7, 2008</b>	<b>Objections to discovery</b>
<b>November 10, 2008</b>	<b>Status Conference</b>
<b>December 1, 2008</b>	<b>Response to first round of discovery requests</b>
<b>January 16, 2008</b>	<b>Intervenor's Pre-filed Testimony</b>
<b>January 23, 2009</b>	<b>Second round of discovery requests</b>
<b>January 27, 2009</b>	<b>Objections to discovery</b>
<b>January 29, 2009</b>	<b>Status Conference (if necessary)</b>
<b>February 5, 2009</b>	<b>Response to second round of discovery requests</b>
<b>February 20, 2009</b>	<b>Atmos' Pre-filed Rebuttal Testimony</b>
<b>March 5, 2009</b>	<b>Pre-Hearing Conference</b>
<b>Week of March 10, 2009</b>	<b>Proposed Hearing on the Merits (3 days)</b>
<b>March 31, 2009</b>	<b>Post Hearing Briefs</b>
<b>April 15, 2009</b>	<b>Six months from filing of rate case</b>

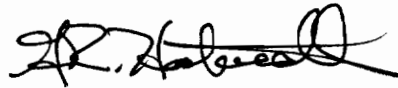
Hearing dates are subject to confirmation by the assigned panel of directors. After Hearing dates are determined, a Notice of Hearing will be issued.

A proposed Protective Order was then discussed at the Status Conference, and with slight modification, was approved for entry by the Hearing Officer.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Consumer Advocate's *Motion to Ask Additional Discovery Questions in Excess of Forty (40) Questions* is granted.

2. A procedural schedule is established as stated herein.
3. All filings are due no later than **2:00 p.m.** on the dates indicated in the procedural schedule. One copy of all discovery requests, objections and responses shall be filed with the Authority.
4. The proposed Protective Order, with modifications, is adopted for entry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hotvedt", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Hotvedt, Hearing Officer