

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**September 24, 2012**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY  
CORPORATION FOR A GENERAL RATE  
INCREASE**

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**DOCKET NO.  
12-00064**

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**ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION TO  
AMEND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

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This matter is before the Hearing Officer upon the filing of a *Joint Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule* (“*Joint Motion*”) on September 24, 2012 by Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos”) and the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Attorney General’s Office (“Consumer Advocate”) (collectively, the “Parties”).

A procedural schedule was issued on August 27, 2012, setting forth various deadlines for the progression and completion of this docket.<sup>1</sup> In the *Joint Motion*, the Parties state that an amendment to the procedural schedule is necessary to give the Consumer Advocate additional time to prepare pre-filed direct testimony and to review Atmos’ responses to discovery requests and TRA data requests. The Parties also submitted a proposed amended schedule, which gives additional time for the Consumer Advocate to file its direct testimony and adjusts other filing dates accordingly, while maintaining the previously scheduled dates for the pre-hearing conference, the hearing on the merits and the filing of post-hearing briefs. The proposed schedule also adds a four-day period for settlement discussions between the Parties.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Order Granting Petition To Intervene And Motion For More Than Forty Discovery Requests, And Establishing A Procedural Schedule*, pp. 3-4 (August 27, 2012).

The Hearing Officer finds that the *Joint Motion* is reasonable and should be granted. However, due to the shortened length of time between the filing of Atmos' rebuttal testimony and the hearing date, Atmos is directed to refer in its pre-filed rebuttal testimony to the specific testimony (including the name of the witness and the applicable page number(s)) that is being rebutted to assist the Directors in preparing for the hearing.

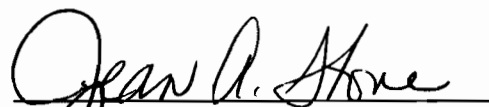
Therefore, the following amended procedural schedule as set forth in the *Joint Motion* is adopted:

October 4, 2012	Consumer Advocate's Pre-filed Testimony Due
October 11, 2012	Second Round of Discovery Due
October 16-19, 2012	Settlement Discussions between the Parties
October 19, 2012	Second Round of Discovery Responses Due
November 1, 2012	Atmos' Pre-filed Rebuttal Testimony Due
November 1, 2012	Pre-hearing Conference
November 7-9, 2012	Hearing on the Merits
November 21, 2012	Post-hearing Briefs Due

All filings are due at 2:00 p.m. on the date indicated. The parties may request a Status Conference at any time. The hearing on the merits will be held on November 7-9, 2012, with a notice of hearing to be issued prior to that date.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

An amended procedural schedule is adopted, as set forth herein.

  
Jean A. Stone, Hearing Officer