

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:	July 7, 2016)	
)	
PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY)	DOCKET NO.
CORPORATION TO REVISE PERFORMANCE)	16-00028
BASED RATEMAKING MECHANISM TARIFF)	
)	

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

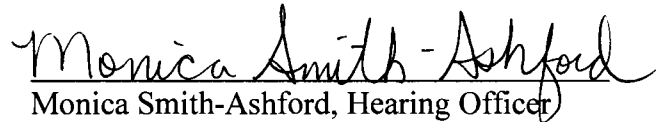
This matter is before the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (“Authority” or “TRA”) to establish a procedural schedule for the orderly administration of these proceedings. The goal and design of any procedural schedule is to efficiently move the proceedings forward to a hearing and final conclusion on the merits. Nevertheless, a procedural schedule’s effectiveness directly depends on cooperation by the parties in meeting the individual benchmark dates.

The Hearing Officer held a Status Conference by telephone on May 25, 2016 with the parties, Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos” or the “Company”) and the Consumer Protection and Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate” or “CPAD”), to discuss the procedural schedule. The parties could not agree on a procedural schedule and each party submitted a proposed procedural schedule for consideration. According to the Consumer Advocate, their proposed schedule begins on September 12, 2016 because prior to that time, the Consumer Advocate’s limited resources would be focused on a complex rate case before the Authority in which the Consumer Advocate is an intervenor. The hearing in that rate case is scheduled to begin August 8, 2016 and is anticipated to last at least a week. During the Status

Conference, Atmos argued that it needed the procedural schedule to begin before September, and its proposed procedural schedule began May 26, 2016. Atmos argued that for accounting purposes, the Company needed to proceed with this docket as soon as possible.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(a) states in pertinent part “the authority shall give the investigation [of an increase in individual rates] preference over other matters pending before it and shall decide the matter as speedily as possible” During the Status Conference, the Hearing Officer considered the relevant statute and the arguments of the parties and found that the limited resources of the TRA Staff, as well as the Consumer Advocate, should be allocated to handling a complex rate case before the Authority. Based on these findings, the Hearing Officer adopted the dates set forth in the Consumer Advocate’s proposed procedural schedule and hereby establishes the Procedural Schedule set forth in **Exhibit A** attached to this Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED.


Monica Smith-Ashford, Hearing Officer

DOCKET NO. 16-00028
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

July 7, 2016

Due Date	Filing
September 12, 2016	CPAD Discovery Requests (Copies of all discovery exchanged between the parties shall be filed with the Authority within 3 days of the exchange of information. All spreadsheets shall be filed in Excel format with working formulas intact.)
September 26, 2016	Atmos Responses to CPAD Requests
November 7, 2016	CPAD Pre-filed Testimony
November 14, 2016	Atmos Discovery Requests
November 23, 2016	CPAD Discovery Responses
December 12, 2016	Atmos Pre-filed Rebuttal Testimony*
TBD	Pre-Hearing Conference
TBD (target January 2017)	Hearing on the Merits

* Rebuttal Testimony should be limited only to issues raised in the Consumer Advocate's Direct Testimony and should include the page and line number of the Consumer Advocate's testimony that is being rebutted.