

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

May 5, 2022

IN RE:

**PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR
APPROVAL OF ITS 2022 ANNUAL RATE REVIEW
FILING PURSUANT TO TENN. CODE ANN. § 65-5-
103(d)(6)**

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**DOCKET NO.
22-00010**

PRE-HEARING ORDER

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-306(d) and Commission Rule 1220-1-2-.12, this order is being issued by the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “TPUC”) to establish the orderly conduct of the Hearing on the *2022 Tennessee Annual Rate Review Filing* scheduled during the Commission Conference to be held at 9:00 a.m. (CDT) on Monday, May 9, 2022. Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos”) and the Consumer Advocate Unit in the Financial Division of the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General (“Consumer Advocate”), the parties in this matter, participated in the Pre-Hearing Conference.

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The following order of the Hearing has been established and agreed upon:

A. NOTICE OF HEARING & PUBLIC COMMENT

On April 29, 2022, a *Notice of Hearing* was issued notifying the public that a Hearing on the *2022 Tennessee Annual Rate Review Filing* will be held during the Commission Conference scheduled to begin at **9:00 a.m. (CDT) on Monday, May 9, 2022**. Members of the public are encouraged to participate by filing written comments in the docket file and/or presenting verbal comments during the Hearing.

B. OPENING STATEMENTS

After any preliminary matters are considered, each party may present opening statements. Atmos will present its opening statements first, followed by the Consumer Advocate. Each party will have **fifteen (15) minutes** to present opening remarks.

C. EXHIBITS & DOCUMENTS

The parties should exchange any demonstrative exhibits related to a witness's testimony before that witness appears on the stand. The parties agreed to exchange exhibits by **Wednesday, May 4, 2022**. Each party should have its own copy of all exhibits, including those appended to pre-filed testimony, available for reference during the Hearing and is responsible for supplying a sufficient number of copies of any exhibits that it intends to reference or discuss with a witness. A party should use its own judgment and discretion in determining the total number of copies to have on hand, but at a minimum, copies of an exhibit should be provided to the court reporter, each Commissioner on the panel, Legal Staff, and the Utilities Division Director.

D. TECHNOLOGICAL AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUESTS

The parties informed the Hearing Officer that provisions for visual display aids and technology are not necessary for the Hearing.

E. WITNESSES

During direct examination, witnesses will summarize their pre-filed testimony within the allotted amount of time. In addition, a witness remains subject to recall for rebuttal purposes and should remain available throughout the length of the proceedings.

- Atmos will call its witnesses in the following order:
 - **William Matthews:** 5 - 10 minutes for summary
 - **Joe Christian:** 10 -15 minutes for summary

- The Consumer Advocate will then call its witness:
 - **David Dittmore** (by phone):15 minutes for summary

F. EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES AND QUESTIONS BY THE COMMISSION

While re-direct examination of a witness is allowed, the parties are reminded to limit questions on re-direct to matters elicited during cross-examination that require clarification. It is not appropriate to raise new issues during re-direct examination. Re-cross examination is not permitted except in the event that a new issue is raised during the immediately preceding re-direct examination. The Commission's Advisory Staff may ask questions following re-cross examination before re-direct examination. The parties should be aware that the Commissioners might ask questions at any time during a witness's testimony, as well as following cross-examination.

G. CLOSING REMARKS

The parties will present closing arguments and forgo filing post-hearing briefs. Closing arguments will be presented first by the Consumer Advocate, then Atmos. Each party will be given a maximum of **ten (10) minutes** to present closing arguments.

H. PRELIMINARY MATTERS/MOTIONS

The parties should make the Hearing Officer aware of any preliminary matters as soon as possible in advance of the Hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Hearing on the *2022 Tennessee Annual Rate Review Filing* Commission Conference to be held at **9:00 a.m. (CDT) on Monday, May 9, 2022**, shall be conducted in accordance with this Pre-Hearing Order unless otherwise ordered by the Chair/Presiding Commissioner.



Monica Smith-Ashford, Hearing Officer