

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

November 3, 2023

IN RE:

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION NOTICE OF FILING) DOCKET NO.
DEPRECIATION STUDY AND REQUEST FOR) 23-00050
APPROVAL OF NEW DEPRECIATION RATES)
)

PRE-HEARING ORDER

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-306(d) and Commission Rule 1220-1-2-.12, this matter came before the Hearing Officer of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “TPUC”) at a Pre-Hearing Conference held via teleconference on October 25, 2023. The Pre-Hearing Conference was held to establish the orderly conduct of the Hearing on the *Notice of Filing Depreciation Study and Request for Approval of New Depreciation Rates* scheduled during the Commission Conference to be held at 10:00 a.m. (CST) on Monday, November 6, 2023. Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos”) and the Consumer Advocate 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 October 27, 2023, a *Notice of Hearing* was issued notifying the public that a Hearing on the *Notice of Filing Depreciation Study and Request for Approval of New Depreciation Rates*

will be held during the Commission Conference scheduled to begin at **10:00 a.m. (CST) on Monday, November 6, 2023**. 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, including a summary regarding the status of the docket. After Atmos has completed its comments, the Consumer Advocate will present opening remarks. Each party will have **ten (10) minutes** to present opening remarks.

C. EXHIBITS & DOCUMENTS

The parties should exchange any demonstrative exhibits related to a witness' pre-filed testimony before that witness appears on the stand. 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 the following witness:
 - **Ned W. Allis - Ten (10) minutes** for summary.
- Consumer Advocate will call the following witness:
 - **Michael J. Majoros, Jr. - Ten (10) minutes** for summary.

F. EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES AND QUESTIONS BY THE COMMISSION

While redirect examination of a witness is allowed, the parties are reminded to limit questions on redirect to matters elicited during cross-examination that require clarification. It is not appropriate to raise new issues during redirect examination. Recross-examination is not permitted except in the event that a new issue is raised during the immediately preceding redirect examination. The Commission Staff has the opportunity to ask questions following cross-examination, before redirect 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 ARGUMENTS

The parties have decided to submit post-hearing briefs instead of presenting Closing Arguments. The parties may request an expedited transcript from the court reporter and the post-hearing briefs are due **November 22, 2023**.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS/MOTIONS

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


II. SUMMARY OUTLINE OF HEARING

For the convenience of the presiding panel and the parties, a *Procedural Outline of Hearing*

has been provided as an attachment to this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The hearing scheduled during the Authority Conference scheduled to begin at **10:00 a.m. (CST) on Monday, November 6, 2023**, shall be conducted in accordance with this Pre-Hearing Order unless otherwise ordered by the Chairman/Presiding Commissioner.


Monica Smith-Ashford, Hearing Officer

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:)	
)	
ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION NOTICE OF)	DOCKET NO.
FILING DEPRECIATION STUDY AND REQUEST)	23-00050
FOR APPROVAL OF NEW DEPRECIATION)	
RATES)	

PROCEDURAL OUTLINE OF HEARING

HEARING ON THE MERITS

- Scheduled during the Commission Conference at 10:00 a.m. (Central) on November 6, 2023.

A. Hearing Convened by Chairman/Presiding Commissioner & Introductions

B. Miscellaneous or Pre-Hearing matters

C. Opening Statements

1. Atmos
2. Consumer Advocate

D. Witness Testimony

1) **Atmos witness** **Ned Allis, VP Gannett Fleming Valuation & Rate Consultants**

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn -

Witness Summary of Direct	Limited to 10 minutes
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Cross-examination	Consumer Advocate
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Questions	Commissioners and/or Staff
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Re-direct examination	Atmos
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2) **Consumer Advocate witness** **Michael J. Majoros, Jr.-Pres., Snavelly King Majoros**
& Associates, Inc.

- Oath Administered/Witness Sworn -

Witness Summary of Direct

Limited to 10 minutes

Cross-examination

Atmos

Questions

Commissioners and/or Staff

Re-direct examination

Consumer Advocate

E. Public Comment

F. Hearing Adjourned