

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

<b>IN RE:</b>	)	
	)	
<b>PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY</b>	)	
<b>CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL</b>	)	
<b>OF NEGOTIATED FRANCHISE</b>	)	<b>Docket No. 26- <u>00043</u></b>
<b>AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF</b>	)	
<b>JONESBOROUGH, TENNESSEE</b>	)	

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARK A. MARTIN  
ON BEHALF OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION**

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1 **Q. IN YOUR OPINION, ARE THE JONESBOROUGH FRANCHISE**  
2 **AGREEMENT'S TERMS NECESSARY AND PROPER FOR THE PUBLIC**  
3 **CONVENIENCE AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST?**

4 A. Yes, on a number of grounds.

5 *First*, the new franchise facilitates the provision of such natural gas service to the Town  
6 of Jonesborough by an established and proven provider of that service well known to  
7 both the Town of Jonesborough and this Commission and possessing the requisite  
8 expertise, facilities, systems, and gas supply and transportation assets necessary to  
9 provide such service.

10 *Second*, the new franchise arrangement establishes adequate and proper mechanisms for  
11 access by the Company to public rights-of-way, new and existing customers, and its  
12 distribution facilities. These mechanisms help to ensure that Atmos Energy is able to  
13 provide both adequate and efficient service and to comply with the requirements of this  
14 Commission to ensure the safety and protection of residents and property within the  
15 Town of Jonesborough.

16 *Third*, the various other protective provisions set forth in the new franchise arrangement  
17 provide useful and important tools for the Town of Jonesborough to ensure that its  
18 citizens are benefited and not economically harmed by the activities of Atmos Energy  
19 within the Town of Jonesborough.

20 *Fourth*, the new franchise arrangement provides an incentive for Atmos Energy to invest  
21 in infrastructure needed to provide improved and expanded service within the Town of  
22 Jonesborough by ensuring that Atmos Energy will have the right to provide service  
23 within these areas for a sufficient period in order to permit Atmos Energy the opportunity  
24 to recover the capital investment in such facilities under the rates approved by the  
25 Commission.

1 **Q. WHAT ARE YOU ASKING THE COMMISSION TO DO IN THIS**  
2 **PROCEEDING?**

3 A. Based on the facts discussed above, we are asking the Commission to approve the new  
4 franchise agreement between Atmos Energy and the Town of Jonesborough as reflected  
5 in Exhibit 1 to the Petition in this matter.

6 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO ADD TO YOUR TESTIMONY?**

7 A. Not at this time.

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2 A. My name is Mark A. Martin. My business address is 3275 Highland Pointe Drive,  
3 Owensboro, Kentucky 42303.

4 **Q. BY WHOM AND IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU EMPLOYED?**

5 A. I am employed by Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos Energy” or the “Company”) as  
6 Vice President - Rates and Regulatory Affairs for the Kentucky/Mid-States Division,  
7 which includes Atmos Energy’s operations in the Town of Jonesborough, Tennessee.

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES WITH ATMOS**  
9 **ENERGY AND YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.**

10 A. I am responsible for external affairs including public affairs, governmental affairs, and all  
11 rates and regulatory affairs in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. I graduated from  
12 Eastern Illinois University in 1995 with a degree in Accounting. I have been with Atmos  
13 Energy since September 1995. I have served in a variety of positions of increasing  
14 responsibility in Public Affairs, Rates and Regulatory Affairs, and the Kentucky/Mid-  
15 States Division prior to assuming my current responsibilities in October 2025.

16 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TESTIMONY BEFORE THE**  
17 **TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION (“COMMISSION”)?**

18 A. No, I have not previously testified before the Commission.

19 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

20 A. I am testifying on behalf of Atmos Energy in support of the petition filed to approve the  
21 franchise between Atmos Energy and the Town of Jonesborough.

22 **Q. IN YOUR CAPACITY AS VICE PRESIDENT - RATES AND REGULATORY**  
23 **AFFAIRS FOR THE KENTUCKY/MID-STATES DIVISION OF ATMOS**  
24 **ENERGY, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION**  
25 **SYSTEM OPERATED BY ATMOS ENERGY IN JONESBOROUGH,**  
26 **TENNESSEE?**

1 A. Yes, I am familiar with the distribution system in Jonesborough, Tennessee, as well as in  
2 surrounding communities served by the Atmos Energy system.

3 **Q. PLEASE GIVE THE COMMISSION AN OVERALL DESCRIPTION OF THE**  
4 **JONESBOROUGH, TENNESSEE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND THE**  
5 **CUSTOMERS SERVED.**

6 A. There are approximately 1,044 customers located within the city limits being served by the  
7 natural gas distribution system owned and operated by Atmos Energy. Of that amount,  
8 approximately 87% are residential customers and 13% are in other customer classes such  
9 as commercial and industrial.

10 The Atmos Energy system consists of approximately 23 miles of pipe within the  
11 Jonesborough, Tennessee city limits. This pipe is comprised of distribution mains and  
12 service lines. The majority of this pipe is located within the public rights-of-way of  
13 Jonesborough. Without access to these public rights-of-way, Atmos Energy could not  
14 adequately maintain, replace and/or operate its distribution system.

15 **Q. HAS ATMOS ENERGY OPERATED A NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION**  
16 **SYSTEM IN JONESBOROUGH FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS?**

17 A. Yes. Atmos Energy and its predecessor entity have operated for many years in  
18 Jonesborough under a franchise agreement with the Town of Jonesborough. The  
19 franchise agreement allowed Atmos Energy's predecessor entity to operate a gas system  
20 within Jonesborough and to use the public rights of way of Jonesborough for its  
21 distribution system and related plan and access thereto for a 20-year period.

22 **Q. COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAUSED A**  
23 **NEED FOR A NEW FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ATMOS ENERGY**  
24 **AND THE TOWN OF JONESBOROUGH?**

25 A. Yes. Under § 65-26-101 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, Atmos Energy is required to  
26 have the consent of the Town of Jonesborough, in the form of a municipal ordinance, in

1 order to enter onto the streets and alleys of Jonesborough for the purpose of placing,  
2 maintaining, or expanding its natural gas distribution facilities. Atmos Energy and its  
3 predecessor entity have been providing natural gas service to the Town of Jonesborough  
4 for the last 20 years pursuant to the ordinances I have previously mentioned. As the 20-  
5 year term of the ordinance expired on May 11, 2026, Atmos Energy and Jonesborough  
6 have entered into a new franchise agreement allowing Atmos Energy to continue to serve  
7 the Town of Jonesborough into the future.

8 **Q. WHEN DID ATMOS ENERGY BEGIN PURSUING A NEW FRANCHISE**  
9 **ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF JONESBOROUGH?**

10 A. The Company and the Town of Jonesborough began discussions in February 2026 and a  
11 proposed new franchise ordinance followed from those discussions.

12 **Q. HOW DOES THE NEW FRANCHISE AGREEMENT COMPARE WITH THE**  
13 **OLD ONE?**

14 A. The proposed franchise in substance extends the term of the current franchise for one (1)  
15 year, with extensions for two successive periods of one (1) year each. There is no  
16 franchise fee in the franchise agreement.

17 **Q. IS COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR THIS NEW FRANCHISE**  
18 **AGREEMENT?**

19 A. Yes. Under § 65-4-107 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, the new franchise agreement  
20 will not be valid unless and until approved by this Commission.

21 **Q. WHAT IS THE STANDARD TO BE UTILIZED BY THE COMMISSION IN**  
22 **DETERMINING WHETHER TO APPROVE THE NEW FRANCHISE**  
23 **AGREEMENT?**

24 A. Under the statute, the Commission is authorized to approve the ordinance if it finds that it  
25 “is necessary and proper for the public convenience and properly serves the public  
26 interest.”

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**IN RE:** )  
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**JONESBOROUGH, TENNESSEE** )

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**VERIFICATION**

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STATE OF TENNESSEE )  
 )  
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON )

I, Mark A. Martin, being first duly sworn, state that I am the Vice President - Rates and Regulatory Affairs for the Kentucky/Mid-States Division for Atmos Energy Corporation, that I am authorized to testify on behalf of Atmos Energy Corporation in the above-referenced docket, that the foregoing testimony in support of Atmos Energy Corporation's Petition and supporting documents filed herewith are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark A. Martin

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 20th day of MAY, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: JANUARY 24, 2028

