

Decision No. C24-0933

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24L-0540G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING IT TO ADJUST ITS GAS COST RECOVERY RATES ON LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE.

**COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION
AND AUTHORIZING REVISIONS OF GAS RATES**

Issued Date: December 24, 2024

Adopted Date: December 18, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statements

1. On December 13, 2024, Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos” or the “Applicant”) filed a Verified Application to update its Gas Cost Adjustment (“GCA”) rates. Atmos seeks a Commission order authorizing it, without a formal hearing and on less-than-statutory notice, to place into effect on January 1, 2025, a tariff resulting in an overall increase to its existing natural gas rates on file with the Commission.

2. The proposed tariff is attached to the application and affects the Applicant's customers in its three Colorado GCA zones.

3. Atmos acknowledges that it has read and agrees to abide by the provisions of Rules 4002(b)(IV) through (VI) and Rules 4002(b)(XI)(A) through (C) of the Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Pipeline Operators, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (“CCR”) 723-4.

4. This application for authority to change GCA rates is made pursuant to 4 CCR 723 and Rule 4602, which covers the GCA application process.

B. Findings of Fact

5. The Applicant is an operating public utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission and is engaged in, *inter alia*, the purchase, distribution, transportation, and sale of natural gas for domestic, mechanical, or public uses in its North, Southeast, and Southwest rate areas in the State of Colorado.

6. Rule 4603(c) provides that if the projected gas costs have changed from those used to calculate the currently effective gas cost or if a utility's deferred gas cost balance increases or decreases sufficiently, the utility may file an application to revise its currently effective GCA to reflect such changes, provided that the resulting change to the GCA equates to at least one cent (\$0.01) per Mcf or Dth.

7. Pursuant to Rule 1101(a) of the Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, Atmos Energy is also filing under seal portions of Confidential GCA Attachment Nos. 2, 3, and 5, which contain material that is confidential, proprietary, and market sensitive. Public versions of the confidential attachments have been filed with this application in compliance with Commission Rule 4610(a).

8. The purpose of the revisions of the Applicant's gas rates is to effectuate increases for Atmos' GCA zones, in the level of natural gas costs charged to the Applicant based on prices to be in effect as of January 1, 2025.

9. The effect of the revisions is an overall increase of \$9,301,797 to the Applicant's customers in its three Colorado GCA zones. Specifically, the effect of the revisions is an increase of \$7,901,145 to customers in the North zone; an increase of \$1,163,815 to customers in the Southeast Colorado Division; and an increase of \$236,837 to Applicant's customers in the Southwest Colorado Division.

10. The proposed tariff, attached as Appendix A, will increase revenues by \$9,301,797.

11. Pursuant to Commission Rules 1207 and 4604(h) Atmos acknowledges its obligation to provide notice to customers and the public concerning the utility's proposed GCA change. In addition to posting notice on its website, Atmos Energy will provide notice by publication in the Denver Post

12. The Commission finds good cause to allow the proposed overall increase on less-than-statutory notice.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The application filed by Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos") on December 13, 2024, is deemed complete.

2. The application for authority to change tariffs on less-than-statutory notice is granted.

3. Atmos shall file a new advice letter and tariff, attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Decision, on not less than two business days' notice. The advice letter and tariff shall be filed as a new advice letter proceeding and shall comply with all applicable rules. In calculating the proposed effective date, the date the filing is received at the Commission is not included in the notice period and the entire notice period must expire prior to the effective date. The advice letter and tariff must comply in all substantive respects to this Decision in order to be filed as a compliance filing on shortened notice. These tariffs shall be effective on or after their effective date of January 1, 2025.

4. The 20-day time period provided by § 40-6-114, C.R.S., to file an Application for Rehearing, Reargument, or Reconsideration shall begin on the first day after the effective date of this Decision.

5. This Decision is effective upon its Issued Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
December 18, 2024.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners