

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 19L-0486G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING IT TO PUT INTO EFFECT CERTAIN GAS
RATE ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS GAS COST RECOVERY RATES UPON LESS THAN
STATUTORY NOTICE.

**COMMISSION DECISION AUTHORIZING
REVISIONS OF GAS RATES**

Mailed Date: September 25, 2019
Adopted Date: September 25, 2019

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statements

1. On September 12, 2019, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos or 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 October 1, 2019 a tariff resulting in an overall decrease (though in the Southwest GCA zone, an 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, 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. The North Colorado rate area includes the former Northeast Colorado and Northwest Colorado rate areas that were permitted to be consolidated at a later date in Decision No. C18-0311 in Proceeding No. 17AL-0429G on May 3, 2018, for the purposes of determining the commodity and upstream portions of the GCA. On February 21, 2019, Commission Decision No. C19-0184 in Proceeding No. 19L-0079G provided that the deferred account balances in those two zones had grown sufficiently low to permit the actual consolidation to occur.

7. Rule 4602(a) provides that Atmos and Public Service Company of Colorado “shall file with the Commission annual GCA applications with an effective date of October 1.”

8. The purpose of the revisions of the Applicant's gas rates is to effectuate decreases for the North and Southeast GCA zones, and an increase for the Southwest GCA zone, in the level of natural gas costs charged to the Applicant based on prices to be in effect as of October 1, 2019.

9. The effect of the above revisions is an overall decrease of \$10,641,838 to the Applicant's customers in its three Colorado GCA zones. Specifically, the effect of the revisions is a decrease of \$8,127,758 to customers in the North zone; a decrease of \$3,018,866 to customers in the Southeast Colorado Division; and an increase of \$504,786 to Applicant's customers in the Southwest Colorado Division.

10. The proposed tariff, attached as Appendix A, will decrease total annual revenues by \$10,641,838.

11. Pursuant to Rule 1206(f)(I), Rules of Practice and Procedure 4 CCR 723-1, Atmos acknowledges its obligation to publish notice of the subject filing within three days after the filing of this application.

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

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The verified application filed by Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) on September 12, 2019 is deemed complete.

2. Atmos is authorized to file, on not less than two days' notice; the tariff attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Decision. The tariff shall be effective for actual gas sales on or after their effective date of October 1, 2019

3. 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.

4. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
September 25, 2019.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY



Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

FRANCES A. KONCILJA

JOHN GAVAN

Commissioners