

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX
DIVISION AND ATMOS CITIES STEERING COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, this settlement agreement is entered into by Atmos Energy Corp's Mid-Tex Division and Atmos Cities Steering Committee ("ACSC") whose members include the Cities of Abilene, Addison, Allen, Alvarado, Angus, Anna, Argyle, Arlington, Bedford, Bellmead, Benbrook, Beverly Hills, Blossom, Blue Ridge, Bowie, Boyd, Bridgeport, Brownwood, Buffalo, Burkburnett, Burlison, Caddo Mills, Carrollton, Cedar Hill, Celeste, Celina, Cisco, Cleburne, Clyde, College Station, Colleyville, Colorado City, Comanche, Coolidge, Coppell, Corinth, Corral City, Crandall, Crowley, Dalworthington Gardens, Denison, DeSoto, Duncanville, Eastland, Edgecliff Village, Emory, Ennis, Euless, Everman, Fairview, Farmers Branch, Farmersville, Fate, Flower Mound, Forest Hill, Fort Worth, Frisco, Frost, Gainesville, Garland, Garrett, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Haltom City, Harker Heights, Haskell, Hewitt, Highland Park, Highland Village, Honey Grove, Hurst, Iowa Park, Irving, Justin, Kaufman, Keene, Keller, Kemp, Kennedale, Kerrville, Killeen, Krum, Lakeside, Lake Worth, Lancaster, Lewisville, Lincoln Park, Little Elm, Lorena, Malakoff, Mansfield, McKinney, Melissa, Mesquite, Midlothian, Murphy, Nocona, North Richland Hills, Northlake, Oakleaf, Ovilla, Palestine, Pantego, Paris, Parker, Pecan Hill, Plano, Ponder, Pottsboro, Prosper, Quitman, Red Oak, Reno (Parker County), Richardson, Richland, Richland Hills, Roanoke, Robinson, Rockwall, Roscoe, Rowlett, Sachse, Saginaw, Seagoville, Sherman, Snyder, Southlake, Springtown, Stamford, Stephenville, Sulphur Springs, Sweetwater, Temple, Terrell, The Colony, Tyler, University Park, Venus, Vernon, Waco, Watauga, Waxahachie, Westlake, Whitesboro, White Settlement, Wichita Falls, Woodway, and Wylie.

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2010, Atmos filed with the ACSC Cities an application, hereafter referred to as the 2010 RRM filing, to adjust rates pursuant to Rider RRM - Rate Review Mechanism; and

WHEREAS, ACSC has hired experts and lawyers to analyze the rates proposed by Atmos Energy Corp.'s, Mid-Tex Division ("Atmos" or "Company") in its 2010 RRM filing; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement resolves all issues between Atmos and ACSC ("the Signatories") regarding the 2010 RRM filing, which is currently pending before the ACSC Cities, in a manner that the Signatories believe is consistent with the public interest, and the Signatories represent diverse interests; and

WHEREAS, the Signatories believe that the resolution of the issues raised in the 2010 RRM filing can best be accomplished by each ACSC City approving this Settlement Agreement and the rates, terms and conditions reflected in the tariffs attached to this Settlement Agreement as Exhibit A;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements and covenants established herein, the Signatories, through their undersigned representatives, agree to the following Settlement Terms as a means of fully resolving all issues between the ACSC Cities and Atmos involving the 2010 RRM filing:

Settlement Terms

1. Upon the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Atmos and the counsel for the ACSC cities will recommend that an ordinance or resolution be adopted to approve this Settlement Agreement and implement the rates, terms and conditions reflected in the tariffs attached to this Settlement Agreement as Exhibit A. (Attachment A to the Ordinance ratifying this Agreement). Said tariffs should allow Atmos an additional, prospective \$27 million in annual revenue by implementation of rates shown in the proof of revenues attached as Exhibit B. (Attachment B to the Ordinance ratifying this Agreement). The uniform implementation of gas rates, terms and conditions established by this Settlement Agreement shall be effective for bills rendered on or after October 1, 2010.
2. In an effort to streamline the regulatory review process, Atmos and ACSC have agreed to renew the Rate Review Mechanism (“Rider RRM”) for a period commencing with the Company’s April 1, 2011 filing under this mechanism for the calendar year 2010, effective August 15, 2011, and concluding upon the implementation of new, final rates established pursuant to the general rate case that Atmos will file on or before June 1, 2013. Rider RRM provides for an annual rate adjustment to reflect changes in billing determinants, operating and maintenance expense, depreciation expense, other taxes expense, and revenues as well as changes in capital investment and associated changes in gross revenue related taxes. The revised RRM tariff is included in Exhibit A.
3. Notwithstanding the RRM rate adjustments that will occur pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Settlement Agreement, Atmos and ACSC agree that on or before June 1, 2013, Atmos shall file a general, system-wide rate case for the Mid-Tex Division. During the pendency of the general rate case, Atmos and ACSC agree that rate adjustments associated with the RRM filing for calendar year 2011 shall be implemented on August 15, 2012, and shall remain in effect until the earlier of either the issuance of a final order by the Railroad Commission of Texas in the general rate case to be filed on or before June 1, 2013, or the entry of an agreed upon order resolving all issues involved in the general rate case. The adjustments made or requested in the 5th year RRM shall not be considered precedent during the general rate case.
4. Atmos and ACSC further agree that for the period commencing March 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012, Atmos will expand its existing steel service line replacement program to complete the replacement of 100,000 steel service lines within its Mid-Tex Division during this period. Atmos and ACSC agree that a risk-based approach should be adopted to allow replacement of the highest priority steel service lines within this time period. Atmos agrees to provide the ACSC cities with quarterly reports providing the number and location of the lines replaced during the quarter. Atmos agrees to coordinate with ACSC member cities to minimize disruption to cities’ rights of way without compromising the safety of residents of the cities.
5. Atmos and ACSC agree that costs incurred to replace steel service lines prior to October 1, 2010 shall be included in the RRM rate adjustment calculation for the 2010 calendar year, and shall not be subject to or included in the rate cap limitations set forth in subsection IV (a)-(b) of the Rider RRM tariff.

6. Atmos and ACSC agree that the projected incremental direct costs incurred to replace steel service lines on or after October 1, 2010 shall be separately identified and shall not be subject to or included in the rate cap limitations set forth in subsection IV (a)-(b) of the Rider RRM tariff. Atmos and ACSC further agree that such projected direct incremental costs incurred to replace steel service lines after October 1, 2010, shall be separately calculated and recovered as a discrete component of customer charges in the Company's annual RRM filings as set forth below:
 - a. Atmos and ACSC agree that Atmos shall be entitled to separately adjust rates for the Rate Effective Period as defined in the Rider RRM tariff to allow recovery of the projected annual revenue requirement associated with direct incremental costs to be incurred in connection with a steel service line replacement program, that are not otherwise included within the RRM cost of service, including a return on equity of 9.0% within the overall weighted cost of capital applied to net investment (net plant additions, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated deferred income taxes), depreciation expense and applicable taxes;
 - b. Atmos and ACSC further agree that the capital structure used to calculate the steel service line replacement rate adjustment will be the actual Evaluation Period (as defined in the Rider RRM tariff) ratio of long-term debt and equity, with an equity percentage not to exceed 50%;
 - c. Rate recovery associated with a steel service line replacement program shall occur through an adjustment to the Residential and Commercial customer charges. Current year recovery factors as of October 1, 2010 shall be \$0.15 for residential customers and \$0.41 for commercial customers. The rates will be adjusted annually, however, Atmos and ACSC agree that in no case will the per customer monthly cost recovery factors attributable to a steel service line replacement program exceed \$0.44 for residential customers or \$1.22 for commercial customers, either prior to or during the pendency of the general rate case Atmos will file on or before June 1, 2013.
 - d. Atmos and ACSC further agree that any per customer amount attributable to cost recovery for a steel service line replacement program shall be subject to review by the regulatory authority in a subsequent Evaluation Period as defined in the Rider RRM tariff and all incremental costs associated with a steel service line replacement program shall be subject to a prudence/reasonableness review in the general rate case to be filed by Atmos on or before June 1, 2013.
7. With respect to the Company's annual RRM filings, Atmos agrees to pay all reasonable and necessary expenses of each entity having original jurisdiction that are incurred to review the Company's annual RRM filings. Atmos further agrees that in calculating the proposed rate for any Rate Effective Period, the Company shall not include: (1) any external legal, expert, or consultant costs to prepare and/or provide supportive information related to its filing; or (2) reimbursements to original jurisdiction entities.
8. Notwithstanding paragraph 7 of this Settlement Agreement, Atmos and ACSC agree that in the event of an appeal of an original jurisdiction entity's decision regarding a proposed RRM adjustment, recovery of rate case expenses shall be determined

according to Chapters 103 and 104, TEX. UTIL. CODE ANN. Further, in the event of such appeal(s), Atmos shall recover any reimbursement made to the original jurisdiction entity through a surcharge to all customer rates that are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction in that proceeding or proceedings that might be joined therewith, regardless of whether such reimbursements are made during the initial review period or appeal period.

9. The ACSC Cities agree that they will not challenge the legal basis of the rates, terms, and conditions reflected in Exhibit A, or any annual RRM adjustment that is implemented pursuant to Rider RRM.
10. Atmos and the ACSC Cities further agree that the express terms of the Rider RRM are supplemental to the filing, notice, regulatory review, or appellate procedural process of the ratemaking provisions of Chapter 104 of the Texas Utilities Code. If the statute requires a mandatory action on behalf of the municipal regulatory authority or Atmos, the parties will follow the provisions of such statute. If the statute allows discretion on behalf of the municipal regulatory authority, the ACSC Cities agree that they shall exercise such discretion in such a way as to implement the provisions of the RRM tariff. If Atmos appeals an action or inaction of an ACSC City regarding an RRM filing to the Railroad Commission, the ACSC Cities agree that they will not oppose the implementation of interim rates or advocate the imposition of a bond by Atmos consistent with the RRM tariff. Atmos agrees that it will make no filings on behalf of its Mid-Tex division under the provisions of TEX. UTIL. CODE ANN. § 104.301 while the Rider RRM is in place. In the event that a regulatory authority fails to act or enters an adverse decision regarding the proposed annual RRM adjustment, the Railroad Commission of Texas shall, pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Utilities Code, have exclusive appellate jurisdiction to review the action or inaction of the regulatory authority exercising exclusive original jurisdiction over the RRM request. In addition, the Signatories agree that this Settlement Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of the ACSC Cities' right to initiate a show cause proceeding or the Company's right to file a Statement of Intent under the provisions of the Texas Utilities Code.
11. Atmos and ACSC further agree that the ordinance or resolution adopting this Settlement Agreement shall include a provision authorizing Atmos to establish regulatory asset account(s) for costs related to working gas in storage. Atmos and ACSC further agree that the language authorizing these regulatory asset account(s) shall be the same as that set forth in the 4th Ordering Paragraph (Page 10 of 11) of the Final Order Nunc Pro Tunc issued by Railroad Commission of Texas in GUD No. 9869 on February 23, 2010. This language states as follows:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Atmos shall be allowed to establish a regulatory asset for the ad valorem taxes related to working gas in storage. In addition, Atmos shall be allowed to establish a regulatory asset for (1) the costs associated with Accumulated Deferred Income Tax for UNICAP Section 263A, (2) the WACOG to FIFO change, and (3) an amount equal to the rate of return approved in this RRM Proceeding for the Accumulated Deferred Income Tax items related to working gas in storage. Atmos shall record these amounts in Other Regulatory Assets (Account 182.3). These deferred items shall be considered, along with the

investment in working gas, for consideration and possible inclusion in rates for Atmos Pipeline-Texas in that entity's next filed rate case. If the Commission determines that such deferred items are not properly included in the rates of Atmos Pipeline – Texas, the items shall be further deferred until the next Atmos Mid-Tex rate case filed after the final decision in the Atmos Pipeline-Texas rate case for inclusion with the working gas investment in the Atmos Mid-Tex rates.

12. Atmos and ACSC agree that each ACSC city should approve this Settlement Agreement and adopt an ordinance or resolution to implement for the ACSC Cities the rates, terms, and conditions reflected in the tariffs attached to this Settlement Agreement as Exhibit A, as well as the regulatory asset authorization language discussed in paragraph 12 of this Settlement Agreement.
13. The Signatories agree that the terms of the Settlement Agreement are interdependent and indivisible, and that if any ACSC city enters an order that is inconsistent with this Settlement Agreement, then any Signatory may withdraw without being deemed to have waived any procedural right or to have taken any substantive position on any fact or issue by virtue of that Signatory's entry into the Settlement Agreement or its subsequent withdrawal. If any ACSC city rejects this Settlement Agreement, then this Settlement Agreement shall be void *ab initio* and counsel for the ACSC Cities shall thereafter only take such actions as are in accordance with the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
14. The Signatories agree that all negotiations, discussions and conferences related to the Settlement Agreement are privileged, inadmissible, and not relevant to prove any issues associated with Atmos' 2010 RRM filing.
15. The Signatories agree that neither this Settlement Agreement nor any oral or written statements made during the course of settlement negotiations may be used for any purpose other than as necessary to support the entry by the ACSC Cities of an ordinance or resolution implementing this Settlement Agreement.
16. The Signatories agree that this Settlement Agreement is binding on each Signatory only for the purpose of settling the issues set forth herein and for no other purposes, and, except to the extent the Settlement Agreement governs a Signatory's rights and obligations for future periods, this Settlement Agreement shall not be binding or precedential upon a Signatory outside this proceeding.
17. The Signatories agree that this Settlement Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts and may be filed with facsimile signatures.

Agreed to this ____ day of August, 2010.

ATMOS ENERGY CORP., MID-TEX DIVISION

By: _____
John A. Paris
President, Mid-Tex Division

Agreed to this _____ day of August 2010.

ATTORNEY FOR ATMOS TEXAS MUNICIPALITIES, WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE THE CITIES OF ABILENE, ADDISON, ALLEN, ALVARADO, ANGUS, ANNA, ARGYLE, ARLINGTON, BEDFORD, BELLMEAD, BENBROOK, BEVERLY HILLS, BLOSSOM, BLUE RIDGE, BOWIE, BOYD, BRIDGEPORT, BROWNWOOD, BUFFALO, BURKBURNETT, BURLESON, CADDO MILLS, CARROLLTON, CEDAR HILL, CELESTE, CELINA, CISCO, CLEBURNE, CLYDE, COLLEGE STATION, COLLEYVILLE, COLORADO CITY, COMANCHE, COOLIDGE, COPPELL, CORINTH, CORRAL CITY, CRANDALL, CROWLEY, DALWORTHINGTON GARDENS, DENISON, DESOTO, DUNCANVILLE, EASTLAND, EDGECLIFF VILLAGE, EMORY, ENNIS, EULESS, EVERMAN, FAIRVIEW, FARMERS BRANCH, FARMERSVILLE, FATE, FLOWER MOUND, FOREST HILL, FORT WORTH, FRISCO, FROST, GAINESVILLE, GARLAND, GARRETT, GRAND PRAIRIE, GRAPEVINE, HALTOM CITY, HARKER HEIGHTS, HASKELL, HEWITT, HIGHLAND PARK, HIGHLAND VILLAGE, HONEY GROVE, HURST, IOWA PARK, IRVING, JUSTIN, KAUFMAN, KEENE, KELLER, KEMP, KENNEDALE, KERRVILLE, KILLEEN, KRUM, LAKESIDE, LAKE WORTH, LANCASTER, LEWISVILLE, LINCOLN PARK, LITTLE ELM, LORENA, MALAKOFF, MANSFIELD, MCKINNEY, MELISSA, MESQUITE, MIDLOTHIAN, MURPHY, NOCONA, NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, NORTHLAKE, OAKLEAF, OVILLA, PALESTINE, PANTEGO, PARIS, PARKER, PECAN HILL, PLANO, PONDER, POTTSBORO, PROSPER, QUITMAN, RED OAK, RENO (PARKER COUNTY), RICHARDSON, RICHLAND, RICHLAND HILLS, ROANOKE, ROBINSON, ROCKWALL, ROSCOE, ROWLETT, SACHSE, SAGINAW, SEAGOVILLE, SHERMAN, SNYDER, SOUTHLAKE, SPRINGTOWN, STAMFORD, STEPHENVILLE, SULPHUR SPRINGS, SWEETWATER, TEMPLE, TERRELL, THE COLONY, TYLER, UNIVERSITY PARK, VENUS, VERNON, WACO, WATAUGA, WAXAHACHIE, WESTLAKE, WHITESBORO, WHITE SETTLEMENT, WICHITA FALLS, WOODWAY, AND WYLIE

By: _____
Geoffrey Gay*

* Subject to approval by ACSC City Councils