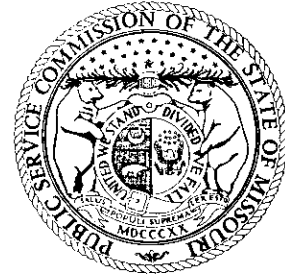


Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Data Center
All Parties in Case No. **GR-2006-0387**

FROM: Chairman Jeff Davis
Commissioner Connie Murray
Commissioner Steve Gaw
Commissioner Robert Clayton
Commissioner Lin Appling



DATE: July 7, 2006

On July 7, 2006, we received the attached letter from Phil Tate regarding Atmos Energy. The Commission is currently considering the issues discussed in this document in case **GR-2006-0387** which is a contested case. In contested cases, the Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Although communications from members of the public and members of the legislature are always welcome, those communications must be made known to all parties to a contested case so that those parties have the opportunity to respond. According to the Commission's rules (4 CSR 240-4.020(8)), when a communication (either oral or written) occurs outside the hearing process, any member of the Commission or Regulatory Law Judge who received the communication shall prepare a written report concerning the communication and submit it to each member of the Commission and the parties to the case. The report shall identify the person(s) who participated in the *ex parte* communication, the circumstances which resulted in the communication, the substance of the communication, and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue before the Commission.

Therefore, I submit this report pursuant to the rules cited above. This will ensure that any party to this case will have notice of the attached information and a full and fair opportunity to respond to the comments contained therein.

cc: Commissioners
Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



July 5, 2006

RECEIVED
JUL 07 2006

Commissioner Connie Murray
Governor Office Building
200 Madison Street, P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Commissioner Murray,

I would like to take this opportunity to express our support of the tariff considerations currently before you on behalf of Atmos Energy. Such a tariff regarding natural gas prices would result in an economic development incentive discount rate.

During my tenure as the Director of Business Expansion and Attraction in the Missouri Department of Economic Development and as President of the Hawthorn Foundation, I found economic development to be very competitive. That might be on a state versus state basis or international one.

I believe that such an incentive would be an important and significant tool in economic development in our state. Such incentives are very common in economic development, and in many cases can be the closing determination in a location decision that results in new employment and capital investment within our state and municipalities. In fact, Atmos Energy enjoys this same rate in a number of other states. These are states known for their aggressive recruitment. However, the Atmos Tariff also includes existing business under certain expansion conditions. This is something greatly needed in our state and could give a strong boost to expansion within our own borders.

K-REDI (Kirkville Regional Economic Development, Inc.) would like to lend its strong support for your favorable decision to allow Atmos Energy to establish an economic development incentive rate for new and existing customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Tate".

Phil Tate, Director of Job Creation
K-REDI

Connie,
Hope this finds you well!
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Tate".

CC: Director Wess Henderson