



May 11, 2011

VIA EFIS

Mr. Steven C. Reed
Secretary
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: **File No. AO-2011-0332**, *In the Matter of a Voluntary Docket to Study the Benefits of and to Encourage Utilities' Efforts to Procure Goods and Services from Diverse Suppliers.*

Dear Mr. Reed:

Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos Energy") is in receipt of the Order Opening Repository File issued in the above-referenced matter. Recognizing that the Commission is beginning its information gathering phase and contemplates future discussions on this important topic, at the outset Atmos Energy would offer the following initial comments.

Atmos Energy maintains a Supplier Diversity Program as an initiative through our Diversity Council. The Program intentionally seeks to provide equal opportunity to qualified minority and women owned suppliers for operational materials, facilities and staffing services, construction and business support. Our macro view of this decision is to build the economy, generate jobs, increase tax base, generate more spending power and expand gross domestic product.

Thank you for your consideration of Atmos Energy's initial comments in this matter. If you have any questions and/or need any additional information, please contact me at (270) 685-8024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark A. Martin".

Mark A. Martin
V.P. Rates and Regulatory Affairs