

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Atmos Energy Corporation Purchased)
Gas Adjustment Factors to be Audited in Its 1999-2000)
Actual Cost Adjustment.)

Case No. GR-2001-396

Dissenting Opinion of Commissioner Robert G. Schemenauer

I respectfully dissent with the majority of the Commission on this case. The purchased gas adjustment clause as used in Missouri allows gas utility companies to recover the cost of the gas purchased and resold to ratepayers from those same ratepayers. I do not disagree and in fact support that concept. What I find most objectionable in this tariff is the negative financial and immediate impact it will have on the households of Atmos Energy Corporation's customers. Increases of this magnitude should be phased in over two or three billing periods. Atmos Energy Corporation, as well as other gas utilities, has this option but has evidently decided not to request a phase-in of this adjustment.

Again, I do not believe that an immediate rate increase of this magnitude, especially after the recent increase already approved, is in the public interest. For this reason I respectfully dissent.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert G. Schemenauer
Commissioner

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,
on this 30th day of January, 2001.