

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION	DOCKET NO. P-856
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ORDER ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER

(Issued August 2, 2005)

On September 15, 2003, Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a petition for a pipeline permit for an existing natural gas pipeline in Lee County, Iowa, that had originally been granted two separate permits, Dockets No. P-520 (Montrose Lateral) and P-746 (Keokuk Lateral). The previous pipeline permits expired on July 10, 2000. Since the original permits had expired, the Board will consider the two laterals as one pipeline with a single permit. This petition has been identified as Docket No. P-856.

Board staff reviewed the petition, notified Atmos of deficiencies in the petition, and requested additional information in letters dated December 4, 2003, July 26, 2004, and April 21, 2005. On April 7, 2004, September 28, 2004, and June 6, 2005, Atmos filed responses and revisions to the petition and provided additional information. Board staff filed a route inspection report addressing the route and the petition on July 22, 2005. The report notes that Atmos had corrected several probable violations of federal and Board safety regulations noted by the Board staff inspector.

Iowa Code § 479.7 (2005) requires the Board to set a hearing in a pipeline proceeding upon the filing of a petition. The Board finds that the petition, as revised, sufficiently meets the Board's filing requirements and the Board will assign Docket No. P-856 to a presiding officer to establish a procedural schedule and conduct a hearing. The inspection report filed by Board staff recommends Atmos address several advisories regarding the maximum operating pressure documentation in its prefiled testimony or at the hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Docket No. P-856 is assigned to a presiding officer to establish a procedural schedule and exercise the authority provided in 199 IAC 7.1(4).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 2nd day of August, 2005.