

JAN 26 2012

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

by
State Corporation Commission
of Kansas

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	Docket No.
OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION)	
FOR REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF ITS)	
NATURAL GAS RATES)	12-ATMG-XXX-RTS

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

DANE A. WATSON, PE CDP

PARTNER,

ALLIANCE CONSULTING GROUP

ON BEHALF OF

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION – KANSAS DIVISION

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OF DANE A. WATSON, WITNESS FOR
ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION – KANSAS DIVISION**

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BEFORE THE
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
12-ATMG-___-RTS
PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
DANE A. WATSON

On Behalf of

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

I. POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1

2 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.**

3 A. My name is Dane A. Watson, and my business address is 1410 Avenue K, Suite
4 1105B, Plano, Texas 75074. I am a Partner of Alliance Consulting Group.
5 Alliance Consulting Group provides consulting and expert services to the utility
6 industry.

7 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?**

8 A. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University
9 of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a Master's Degree in Business Administration
10 from Amberton University.

11 **Q. DO YOU HOLD ANY SPECIAL CERTIFICATION AS A**
12 **DEPRECIATION EXPERT?**

13 A. Yes. The Society of Depreciation Professionals (“the Society”) has established
14 national standards for depreciation professionals. The Society administers an
15 examination and has certain required qualifications to become certified in this

1 field. I met all requirements and have become a Certified Depreciation
2 Professional (“CDP”).

3 **Q. PLEASE OUTLINE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF**
4 **DEPRECIATION.**

5 A. Since graduation from college in 1985, I have worked in the area of depreciation
6 and valuation. I founded Alliance Consulting Group in 2004 and am responsible
7 for conducting depreciation, valuation and certain accounting-related studies for
8 utilities in various industries. My duties relate to preparing depreciation studies
9 and include (1) assembling and analyzing historical and simulated data, (2)
10 conducting field reviews, (3) determining service life and net salvage estimates,
11 (4) calculating annual depreciation, (5) presenting recommended depreciation
12 rates to utility management for its consideration, and (6) supporting such rates
13 before regulatory bodies.

14 My prior employment from 1985 to 2004 was with Texas Utilities
15 (“TXU”). During my tenure with TXU, I was responsible for, among other
16 things, conducting valuation and depreciation studies for the domestic TXU
17 companies. During that time, I served as Manager of Property Accounting
18 Services and Records Management in addition to my depreciation responsibilities.

19 I have twice been Chair of the Edison Electric Institute (“EEI”) Property
20 Accounting and Valuation Committee and have been Chairman of EEI’s
21 Depreciation and Economic Issues Subcommittee. I am a Registered Professional
22 Engineer (“PE”) in the State of Texas and a Certified Depreciation Professional. I
23 am a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

1 ("IEEE") and have held numerous offices on the Executive Board of the Dallas
2 Section of IEEE. I am also Past President of the Society of Depreciation
3 Professionals.

4 **Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE ANY REGULATORY**
5 **COMMISSIONS?**

6 A. I have testified before the Railroad Commission of Texas ("Commission") in the
7 following Dockets: Gas Utility Docket ("GUD") Nos. 8976, 9145-9148, 9225,
8 9313, 9400, 9670, 9762, 9869, 9902, 10000, 10038, and 10041 on behalf of
9 Atmos Pipeline-Texas (formerly known as TXU Lone Star Pipeline), Atmos Mid-
10 Tex Division (formerly known as TXU Gas Distribution), CenterPoint Energy
11 Houston Gas, CenterPoint South Texas, and Atmos West Texas. I have appeared
12 before numerous other state and federal agencies in my 27 year career in
13 performing depreciation studies. I have conducted depreciation studies, filed
14 written testimony and/or testified before the following Commissions:

15 Before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska Docket 9-015 on behalf of
16 Alaska Electric Light and Power, Docket 10-043 on behalf of CUC and GHU, and
17 Docket 10-070 on behalf of Inside Passage Electric Cooperative.

18 Before the Public Utility Commission of Texas in Docket Nos. 11735,
19 12160, 15195, 16650, 18490, 20285, 22350, 23640, 24040, 32766, 34040, 35763,
20 35717, 36633, 38147, 38339, 38480, 39896, and 40020 on behalf of TXU Electric
21 Company, TXU Fuel Company, TXU Mining Company, Oncor Electric Delivery,
22 Texas New Mexico Power, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, Southwestern
23 Public Service, City of San Antonio Public Service Board, Entergy Texas, and

1 Lone Star Transmission.

2 Before the Arkansas Public Service Commission in Docket 06-161-U on

3 behalf of CenterPoint Energy Arkansas Gas,

4 Before the Louisiana Public Service Commission in Docket U-30689 on

5 behalf of Cleco Corporation,

6 Before the Michigan Public Service Commission in Docket U-15629 on

7 behalf of Consumers Energy, Docket U-15989 on behalf of Upper Peninsula

8 Power Company, Docket U-15963 for Michigan Gas Utilities Corp, Docket U-

9 16054 on behalf of Consumers Energy, Docket U-16055 on behalf of Consumers

10 Energy and DTE, and Dockets U-16536 and U-16938 on behalf of Consumers

11 Energy.

12 Before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission in Docket 07-

13 00319-UT on behalf of Southwestern Public Service,

14 Before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in Docket E015/D-08-

15 422 on behalf of Minnesota Power,

16 Before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in Docket 05-DU-

17 101 on behalf of WE Energies,

18 Before the Mississippi Public Service Commission of in Docket 09-UN-

19 334 on behalf of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp,

20 Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in Dockets 06-234-

21 EG,09AL-299E, 11-AL-947E on behalf of Public Service of Colorado,

22 Before the North Dakota Public Service Commission in Docket PU-07-

23 776 on behalf of Northern States Power.

1 (“ALG”) to Equal Life Group (“ELG”) and the increase in removal cost
2 experienced by the Company in Account 380 Services, are the primary drivers for
3 the increase in expense. The Company recommends the continued use of the
4 normal or traditional method for determining net salvage, for all accounts, in
5 setting its depreciation rates. As discussed below, the Company believes the
6 traditional approach is the most appropriate method to use in determining
7 depreciation rates. The SSU depreciation rate study is attached as Exhibit DAW-
8 2.

9 **Q. DOES THE DEPRECIATION STUDY YOU SPONSOR IN THIS CASE**
10 **REFLECT THE MOST CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE FOR THE**
11 **ATMOS KANSAS DIVISION ASSETS?**

12 A. Yes. The data used reflects the most recent experience and future expectations for
13 life and net salvage characteristics for assets in Atmos’ Kansas Division as of
14 September 30, 2011.

15 **Q. ARE YOU RECOMMENDING ANY CHANGE IN DEPRECIATION**
16 **RATES FOR ASSETS BOOKED AT THE ATMOS ENERGY**
17 **CORPORATE LEVEL?**

18 A. Yes. Atmos Energy has updated the depreciation study for its SSU, which
19 contains changes in depreciation rates for those accounts booked at an Atmos
20 Energy Corporate level. That study is included as Exhibit DAW-2 and is as of
21 September 30, 2010.

22

1 **III. ATMOS KANSAS DIVISION GAS DEPRECIATION STUDY**

2 **Q. DID YOU PREPARE THE GAS DEPRECIATION STUDY?**

3 A. Yes. The Atmos Kansas Division Gas Depreciation Study is attached to my
4 testimony as Exhibit DAW-1. The study in Exhibit DAW-1 analyzes the life and
5 net salvage percentage for Atmos Energy's gas assets at September 30, 2011.

6 **Q. WHAT PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE DEPRECIATION STUDY?**

7 A. There are four general classes, or functional groups, of depreciable property: the
8 Storage Plant, Transmission Plant, Distribution Plant and General Plant property.
9 Storage Plant functional group primarily consists of facilities that store natural gas
10 for use as needed. Transmission Plant functional group primarily consist of high
11 and intermediate pressure transmission assets that deliver gas to various receipt
12 points or city gates. The Distribution Plant functional group primarily consists of
13 lines and associated facilities used to distribute gas within the areas served by
14 Atmos Energy. General Plant property, both depreciated and amortized, is not
15 location specific but is used to support the overall distribution of gas to its
16 customers.

17 **Q. WHAT TYPES OF ASSETS ARE CLASSIFIED IN THE GENERAL
18 PLANT DEPRECIATED AND AMORTIZED FUNCTIONS?**

19 A. The General Plant functional group has been split into two groups, depreciated
20 and amortized. The General Plant Depreciated functional group contains facilities
21 and equipment associated with the overall operation of the business, such as
22 office buildings, warehouses, service centers, transportation and power operated
23 equipment. The General Plant Amortized functional group contains assets

1 associated with the overall operation of the business, such as office and computer
2 equipment, stores, tools, and other miscellaneous equipment. All General Plant is
3 used in overall operations of the business rather than with a specific Underground
4 Storage or Transmission classification.

5 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMPANY'S REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT**
6 **VINTAGE GROUP AMORTIZATION FOR ITS GENERAL AMORTIZED**
7 **PLANT ASSETS IN FERC ACCOUNTS 391-399 (EXCLUDES**
8 **ACCOUNTS 392 AND 396).**

9 A. Consistent with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") Rule AR-15,
10 this depreciation study develops depreciation expense for Vintage Group
11 Amortization in Accounts 391 through 399 (excluding Accounts 392 and 396).
12 This process provides for the amortization of general plant over the same life as
13 recommended in this study (with a separate amortization to allocate deficit or
14 excess reserve). At the end of the amortized life, property will be retired from the
15 books.

16 **Q. WILL THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VINTAGE GROUP**
17 **AMORTIZATION AFFECT THE ANNUAL DEPRECIATION EXPENSE**
18 **ACCRUED BY THE COMPANY?**

19 A. No. Implementation of this approach will not affect the annual expense accrued
20 by the Company. This approach simply provides for the timely retirement of
21 assets and the simplification of accounting for general property.

1 **Q. HAVE OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITIES APPROVED THE**
2 **IMPLEMENTATION OF VINTAGE GROUP AMORTIZATION IN**
3 **OTHER RATE PROCEEDINGS?**

4 A. Yes. Both the FERC and several state public utility commissions have approved
5 this approach. Most recently, Atmos received authorization for Vintage Group
6 Amortization in Colorado Docket No. 09AL-507G and in Texas GUD 10000.
7 Atmos also plans to seek approval, where applicable, in its other jurisdictions with
8 each depreciation study filing.

9 **Q. WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE INCREASE IN DEPRECIATION**
10 **EXPENSE IN GENERAL PLANT AMORTIZED?**

11 A. Even though there was little change in lives for these accounts, expense related to
12 General Plant Amortized accounts has increased slightly. The increased expense
13 in General Plant Amortized is due primarily to the depreciation reserve position.
14 The change to amortization had no material effect on the depreciation rates
15 recommended for these accounts.

16 **Q. WHAT DEFINITION OF DEPRECIATION HAVE YOU USED FOR THE**
17 **PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING A DEPRECIATION STUDY AND**
18 **PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY?**

19 A. The term "depreciation," as used herein, is considered in the accounting sense;
20 that is, a system of accounting that distributes the cost of assets, less net salvage
21 (if any), over the estimated useful life of the assets in a systematic and rational
22 manner. Depreciation is a process of allocation, not valuation. Depreciation
23 expense is systematically allocated to accounting periods over the life of the

1 properties. The amount allocated to any one accounting period does not
2 necessarily represent the loss or decrease in value that will occur during that
3 particular period. Thus, depreciation is considered an expense or cost, rather than
4 a loss or decrease in value. The Company accrues depreciation based on the
5 original cost of all property included in each depreciable plant account. On
6 retirement, the full cost of depreciable property, less the net salvage amount, if
7 any, is charged to the depreciation reserve.

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR DEPRECIATION STUDY APPROACH.**

9 A. I conducted the depreciation studies in four phases as shown in my Exhibit DAW-
10 1. The four phases are: Data Collection, Analysis, Evaluation, and Calculation.
11 During the initial phase of the study, I collected historical data to be used in the
12 analysis. After the data was assembled, I performed analyses to determine the life
13 and net salvage percentage for the different property groups being studied. As
14 part of this process, I conferred with field personnel, engineers, and managers
15 responsible for the installation, operation, and removal of the assets to gain their
16 input into the operation, maintenance, and salvage of the assets. The information
17 obtained from field personnel, engineers, and managerial personnel, combined
18 with the study results, was then evaluated to determine how the results of the
19 historical asset activity analysis, in conjunction with the Company's expected
20 future plans should be applied. Using all of these resources, I then calculated the
21 depreciation rate for each function.

22 **Q. WHAT DEPRECIATION METHODOLOGY DID YOU USE?**

1 A. The straight-line (method), Equal Life Group (“ELG”) (procedure), and
2 remaining-life (technique) depreciation system was employed to calculate annual
3 and accrued depreciation in this study.

4 **Q. HOW ARE THE DEPRECIATION RATES DETERMINED USING THE**
5 **ELG PROCEDURE?**

6 A. In this system, the annual depreciation expense for each group is computed by
7 dividing the original cost of the asset less allocated depreciation reserve less
8 estimated net salvage by its respective equal life group remaining life. The
9 resulting annual accrual amounts of all depreciable property within a function
10 were accumulated, and the total was divided by the original cost of all functional
11 depreciable property to determine the depreciation rate. The calculated remaining
12 lives and annual depreciation accrual rates were based on attained ages of plant in
13 service and the estimated service life and salvage characteristics of each
14 depreciable group. The computations of the annual depreciation rates are shown
15 in Appendix B of my Exhibit DAW-1.

16 **Q. HOW DOES THE ELG PROCEDURE DIFFER FROM THE ALG**
17 **PROCEDURE?**

18 A. The ALG or Broad Group procedure, as it is commonly referred to in depreciation
19 literature, considers all units of plant within a particular depreciation category,
20 usually a plant account, sub-account or function to be considered as one group.
21 The ALG procedure treats each vintage in the group as having identical life
22 characteristics thus producing an averaging affect for the life of the group. The
23 ELG procedure groups plant units according to their service lives. Because the

1 ELG procedure accrues the cost of the shorter-lived assets during their service
2 lives in one group and, accrues the cost for the longer-lived assets during their
3 service lives in a separate group, accruals for the longer-lived assets are not
4 burdened by the short-lived assets.

5 **Q. WOULD YOU PROVIDE A SIMPLE EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFERENCE**
6 **BETWEEN THE ALG AND ELG PROCEDURES?**

7 A. Yes. The use of the ELG procedure, rather than the ALG procedure results in a
8 better matching of asset utilization with asset recovery (i.e. more appropriately
9 matches cost recovery with consumption). The 2-unit example below illustrates
10 the recovery patterns using both the ELG procedure and the ALG procedure.

11 Example detailed information

12 There are two units with each unit costing \$1,000. Unit A will be in
13 service for 5 years and Unit B will be in service for 15 years. There is no net
14 salvage anticipated for these units.

15 ALG

16 If depreciation is determined using the ALG procedure, then it would be
17 determined that the average service life for the two units is 10 years $((5 + 15)/2)$
18 and the depreciation rate is 10% (1/10 years). Therefore, the total account
19 original cost is \$2,000 and the annual depreciation amount is \$200 (\$2,000 times
20 10%). At the end of year 5, the total annual accrual for the account is \$1,000 (200
21 times 5). Also affecting the accumulated depreciation is the retirement of Unit A
22 for \$1,000. Thus, the accumulated depreciation for the account at the end of year
23 5 is zero (\$1,000 annual accruals minus \$1,000 retirements). At the beginning of

1 year 6, we have \$1000 of original cost, an accumulated depreciation level of \$0
 2 and one unit that has one-third of its service life expired. With the ALG
 3 procedure, the 10% rate or \$100 of annual expense is booked for years 6 through
 4 15 and at the end of year 15 Unit B is retired. The utility collected \$1,000 in
 5 annual accruals during years 6 through 15 and made a retirement of \$1,000 at year
 6 15, so its original cost and accumulated depreciation are both zero, so full
 7 recovery was achieved. However, if the focus is placed on the end of year 5, the
 8 utility had one unit remaining with two-thirds of its life expectancy still to be
 9 consumed, but 100% of the investment to be recovered. This example is
 10 demonstrated in Table 1 below.

ALG				
Year	Gross Plant	Depreciation Accrual	Retirement	Accumulated Depreciation
0				0.00
1	2,000.00	200.00		200.00
2	2,000.00	200.00		400.00
3	2,000.00	200.00		600.00
4	2,000.00	200.00		800.00
5	2,000.00	200.00	1,000.00	0.00
6	1,000.00	100.00		100.00
7	1,000.00	100.00		200.00
8	1,000.00	100.00		300.00
9	1,000.00	100.00		400.00
10	1,000.00	100.00		500.00
11	1,000.00	100.00		600.00
12	1,000.00	100.00		700.00
13	1,000.00	100.00		800.00
14	1,000.00	100.00		900.00
15	1,000.00	100.00	1,000.00	0.00
16	0.00			

Table 1

1 ELG

2 In contrast, if depreciation is determined using the ELG procedure, then
3 the depreciation expense would be recorded quite differently. Using the same two
4 unit example to illustrate the ELG calculation, Unit A will be in service for 5
5 years, therefore it will have a 20% (100 divided by 5 years) rate. Unit B will be in
6 service for 15 years, and will have a 6.67% (100 divided by 15 years) rate.
7 Consequently, depreciation expense for years 1 through 5 would be \$200 (\$1,000
8 times 20%) for Unit A and \$66.70 (\$1,000 times 6.67%) for Unit B. At the end of
9 year 5, the total annual accruals would be approximately \$1,334 (\$1,000 for Unit
10 A and \$334 for Unit B). Unit A would be retired at the end of year 5, so the
11 accumulated depreciation at the end of year 5 is \$334 (\$1,334 of annual accruals
12 minus \$1,000 retirement). In years 6 through 15, the annual accruals would be
13 \$66.67 for a total to \$666 for the 10-year period. Thus, at the end of year 15, the
14 accumulated depreciation is \$0 (\$1,000 of accruals minus the \$1,000 retirement of
15 Unit B), so full recovery was once again achieved. However, looking back at the
16 end of year 5 in this example, recovery of Unit A matched consumption of Unit A
17 at the time the unit went out of service, and more importantly Unit B has survived
18 one-third of its expected life and recovery was one-third (334/1000) of the
19 expected recovery. This example is demonstrated in Table 2 below.

20

1

ELG

Year	Gross Plant	Depreciation Accrual	Retirement	Accumulated Depreciation
0				0
1	2,000.00	266.67		266.67
2	2,000.00	266.67		533.33
3	2,000.00	266.67		800.00
4	2,000.00	266.67		1,066.67
5	2,000.00	266.67	1,000.00	333.33
6	1,000.00	66.67		400.00
7	1,000.00	66.67		466.67
8	1,000.00	66.67		533.33
9	1,000.00	66.67		600.00
10	1,000.00	66.67		666.67
11	1,000.00	66.67		733.33
12	1,000.00	66.67		800.00
13	1,000.00	66.67		866.67
14	1,000.00	66.67		933.33
15	1,000.00	66.67	1,000.00	0.00
16	0			

2

3

Table 2

4

A much more appropriate recovery pattern is recorded using the ELG procedure.

5

Q. DO YOU HAVE COMPELLING REASONS FOR USING ELG IN YOUR RATE CALCULATIONS AS COMPARED TO ALG?

6

7

A. Yes. There are several reasons:

8

(1) As shown above, the ELG procedure is a more theoretically accurate method of investment recovery than the alternative ALG procedure;

9

10

(2) ELG has been approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission

11

("ICC") (now known as the Surface Transportation Board ("STB")), the Federal

12

Communications Commission ("FCC"), and other state commissions around the

13

country. Specifically, the Company has received authorization in numerous other

1 jurisdictions. In Texas, the Railroad Commission has repeatedly endorsed and
2 approved the use of the ELG procedure;

3 (3) Transitioning back to ELG does not create any issues and provides
4 consistency with the utilities in other states owned by the parent company;

5 (4) The expected future adoption of the International Financial Reporting
6 Standards (“IFRS”) in the United States is likely to result in the acceptance of the
7 ELG procedure as the superior method based on early adoption discussions in
8 Canada which is scheduled to move to IFRS before the United States; and

9 (5) Using the ELG procedure depreciation allows the Company to utilize
10 its assets and recover its assets in the most appropriate manner

11 **Q. ONE OF THE CLAIMS USED AGAINST THE ELG PROCEDURE IS**
12 **THAT THE DATA REQUIREMENT IS GREATER. DO YOU AGREE?**

13 A. No I do not. There are some who would attempt to make that claim but the fact is
14 the quality and detail of data for any depreciation study is the same regardless of
15 the procedure being used.

16 **Q. ARE THERE OTHER CLAIMS AGAINST THE USE OF THE ELG**
17 **PROCEDURE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS?**

18 A. Yes there are several claims I would like to address. First, is the claim the ELG
19 procedure accelerates depreciation. This claim is misplaced. In fact, the ELG
20 procedure is merely a different procedure used in calculating straight-line method
21 depreciation rates, which is the predominant if not required method used by the
22 industry and its regulators. The purpose of the ELG procedure (or for that matter
23 the ALG procedure) is to calculate the theoretical reserve requirement which

1 determines (on a theoretical basis) the amount of depreciation reserve a Company
2 would have collected were the assumed parameters in place throughout the
3 history of the current investment. After the theoretical reserve requirement has
4 been calculated, the annual accrual rate is established. The annual accrual rate is
5 the amount the Company will need to collect on an annual basis to recover the
6 remaining plant investment less accrued depreciation over the remaining life of
7 the assets. Typically, the annual accrual rate is calculated, as is the case of Atmos
8 Kansas, using a straight- line remaining life calculation. Often simple examples
9 are produced in an attempt to suggest the ELG procedure is an accelerated
10 procedure. However, many examples can also be produced to demonstrate that it
11 is not an accelerated procedure. The truth is that the ELG procedure is a straight-
12 line depreciation method, not an accelerated method, and is supported by
13 authoritative sources. Secondly, there have been claims that rates derived from
14 the ELG procedure are time sensitive. This criticism is not valid. All
15 depreciation rates whether ALG or ELG are time sensitive. In the same way ELG
16 rates are computed, ALG rates are also computed and depend on historical
17 balances, remaining lives, and how well assumed life and salvage parameters
18 match current experience. No depreciation system will achieve accurate capital
19 recovery if life and salvage parameters change.

20 **Q. HAVE INDUSTRY AND DEPRECIATION EXPERTS DESCRIBED THE**
21 **ELG PROCEDURE AS A MORE THEORETICALLY CORRECT**
22 **DEPRECIATION PROCEDURE?**

1 A. Yes. The ELG procedure has been recognized as the more theoretically correct
2 depreciation procedure. This conclusion was first reach by Mr. Robley Winfrey
3 (who helped design the current depreciation system we use today) approximately
4 60 years ago. Specifically, Mr. Winfrey, the founding father of modern
5 depreciation systems, has stated that the ELG procedure is the “only
6 mathematically correct [depreciation] procedure.” Similarly, Dr. W. Chester
7 Fitch and Dr. Frank K. Wolf (who literally wrote the book on depreciation and
8 trained many of the depreciation professional working today, including myself),
9 are also in agreement with Mr. Winfrey on the validity of the ELG method. I
10 would note again, that a number of regulatory commissions have approved the use
11 of the ELG procedure.

12 **Q. WHAT TIME PERIOD DID YOU USE TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSED**
13 **DEPRECIATION RATES?**

14 A. The account level depreciation rates were developed based on the depreciable
15 property recorded on the Company’s books at September 30, 2011.

16 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE DEPRECIATION STUDY RESULTS WITH**
17 **RESPECT TO DEPRECIATION RATES.**

18 A. DAW Attachment 1 shows the approved and proposed annual depreciation rates
19 and accrual for each account.

20 **Q. WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE THE DEPRECIATION RATES FOR AN**
21 **ACCOUNT?**

1 A. The primary factors that influence the depreciation rate for an account are: (1) the
2 remaining investment to be recovered in the account, (2) the depreciable life of
3 the account, and (3) the net salvage for the account.

4 **Q. DO YOU HAVE AN INITIAL OBSERVATION ABOUT ATMOS**
5 **ENERGY'S DEPRECIATION EXPENSE IN GENERAL?**

6 A. Yes. Atmos Energy's depreciation expense is increasing from previously
7 approved levels.

8 **Q. WHY IS ATMOS ENERGY'S DEPRECIATION EXPENSE**
9 **INCREASING?**

10 A. Minor adjustments in life and net salvage factors for various accounts influenced
11 the depreciation expense change as discussed later and in Exhibit DAW-1. The
12 slight reduction in life and increase in cost of removal for Account 380, Services
13 along with the change in procedure, ALG to ELG, are the primary reasons for the
14 increase in depreciation expense.

15 **Q. WHAT METHOD DID YOU USE TO ANALYZE HISTORICAL DATA TO**
16 **DETERMINE LIFE CHARACTERISTICS?**

17 A. All accounts were analyzed using the simulated plant record balances analysis
18 (SPR method) to estimate the life of property. In much the same manner as
19 human mortality is analyzed by actuaries, depreciation analysts use models of
20 property mortality characteristics that have been validated in research and
21 empirical applications. Further detail is found in the life analysis section of
22 Exhibit DAW-1.

1 **Q. HOW DID YOU DETERMINE THE AVERAGE SERVICE LIVES FOR**
2 **EACH ASSET GROUP?**

3 A. The establishment of appropriate average service lives for each account was
4 determined by using the SPR balances analysis methods. Graphs illustrating the
5 chosen Iowa Curves used to determine the average service lives for analyzed
6 accounts are found in the Life Analysis section of my Exhibit DAW-1. A
7 summary of the depreciable life for each account is shown in DAW Attachment 2.

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE SOME OF THE CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE**
9 **SERVICE LIVES FOR THE VARIOUS ACCOUNTS?**

10 A. The detailed analysis of each account is described fully in Exhibit DAW-1.
11 Examples of some of the changes in average service lives are:

- 12 • The two largest decreases were a change in life of 10 years for Account
13 383 – House Regulators and Account 384 – House Regulator Installations.
14 The life of these two accounts has been linked to the life of meters and
15 will be installed and retired at the same time going forward.
- 16 • The largest increases were changes in life of 25 years in Account 354 –
17 Compressor Station Equipment and increases of 10 years in Account 353
18 – Pipelines and Account 390 Structures & Improvements.
- 19 • Overall, 19 accounts experienced some level of decrease in average
20 service life while 9 accounts experienced a lengthening of average service
21 life.

22 **Q. WHAT IS NET SALVAGE?**

1 A. While discussed more fully in the study itself, net salvage is the difference
2 between the gross salvage (what the asset was sold for) and the removal cost (cost
3 to remove and dispose of the asset). Salvage and removal cost percentages are
4 calculated by dividing the current cost of salvage or removal by the original
5 installed cost of the asset. Some plant assets can experience significant negative
6 removal cost percentages due to the amount of removal cost and the timing of the
7 addition versus the retirement. For example, a Distribution asset in FERC
8 Account 376 with a current installed cost of \$500 (2010) would have had an
9 installed cost of \$33¹ in 1947. If one were to calculate removal cost as a percent
10 of current cost, a removal cost of \$50 for the asset would only have a -10 percent
11 removal cost ($\$50/\500). This would be incorrect. A correct removal cost
12 calculation would show a negative 152 percent removal cost for that asset
13 ($\$50/\33). Inflation from the time of installation of the asset until the time of its
14 removal must be taken into account in the calculation of the removal cost
15 percentage because the depreciation rate, which includes the removal cost
16 percentage, will be applied to the original installed cost of assets.

17 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE BASIS FOR THE CURRENT APPROVED NET**
18 **SALVAGE RATES.**

19 A. Net salvage rates for the Company were last established by the Commission in
20 Docket No. 08-ATMG-280-RTS. These net salvage rates were primarily based
21 on the normal or traditional approach to determine the net salvage percentages.

22 **Q. HOW DID YOU DETERMINE THE NET SALVAGE PERCENTAGES**
23 **FOR EACH ASSET GROUP?**

¹ Using the Handy-Whitman Bulletin No. 174, G-3, line 43, $\$33 = \$500 \times 40/607$.

1 A. Using the normal or traditional approach, the net salvage as a percent of
2 retirements for various bands (i.e. groupings of years such as the five-year or 10-
3 year average) for each account is shown in my Exhibit DAW-1. The historical
4 experience, input from company experts and judgment were used to select a net
5 salvage percentage that represents the future expectations for each account. A
6 summary of the proposed net salvage percentages are shown below in DAW
7 Attachment 3:

8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE SOME OF THE CHANGES IN THE NET SALVAGE**
9 **PERCENTAGES FOR THE VARIOUS ACCOUNTS?**

10 A. The detailed analysis of each account is described fully in Exhibit DAW-1.
11 Examples of some of the changes in net salvage are:

- 12 • The largest increase (i.e. less negative) in net salvage was in Account
13 352.0 – Wells. Net salvage moved from a negative 100 percent to
14 negative 20 percent.
- 15 • The largest decrease (i.e. more negative or less positive) is in Account 380
16 - Services. This change is due to the increase in cost of removal being
17 recorded for retiring a service, which caused net salvage to change from
18 negative 45 percent to negative 65 percent.
- 19 • Overall, 9 accounts experienced some level of increase (less negative) in
20 net salvage while 6 accounts experienced a decrease (more negative or
21 less positive) in net salvage.

22 **Q. IS THIS APPROACH TO NET SALVAGE THE MOST APPROPRIATE**
23 **FOR SETTING DEPRECIATION RATES IN A REGULATED SETTING?**

1 A. Yes. The approach used matches the costs of assets to the customers' use of the
2 assets on a straight-line basis and is a conservative estimate of the future cash
3 flow requirements needed to remove the Company's assets at the end of their
4 lives. This method has been used by nearly all utilities across the country for
5 many years and it is backed by sound depreciation theory.

6 **Q. ARE YOU AWARE THE STAFF HAS IDENTIFIED AN ISSUE RELATED**
7 **TO THE APPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF NON-LEGAL ASSET**
8 **RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS FOR COMPANIES TO ADDRESS IN**
9 **THEIR DEPRECIATION FILINGS?**

10 A. Yes.

11 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INITIAL THOUGHTS OR OBSERVATIONS YOU**
12 **WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ON THIS ISSUE?**

13 A. Yes I do. This issue arose from the issuance of the Financial Accounting
14 Standards Board Statement 143 ("FAS 143") and then the Federal Energy
15 Regulatory Commission's subsequent issuance of Order 631 ("FERC Order
16 631"). The issuance of FAS 143 was driven by the need for transparency and
17 consistency among all public companies in their financial reporting related to
18 legal asset retirement obligations ("ARO's"). FERC Order 631 prescribed the
19 accounts that public utility companies would need in order to accurately report
20 their financial statements. Additionally, FERC Order 631 specifically excluded
21 "non-legal" obligations. As a result of FAS 143 and FERC Order 631 utility
22 companies and their regulators have determined the need for separate reporting
23 (regulatory and financial accounting) related to legal and non-legal ARO's.

1 Neither FAS 143 nor FERC Order 631 has mandated the use of these alternate
2 methodologies when determining net salvage in its depreciation rate calculations.
3 In fact, as discussed a little later, there are only a very few jurisdictions where a
4 fully litigated filing has resulted in the use of an alternate methodology and those
5 have unique circumstances.

6 **Q. ARE THE CONCERNS RAISED BY THE STAFF AND OTHER**
7 **INTERVENORS IN SOME OF THE MORE RECENT ELECTRIC CASES,**
8 **IN KANSAS, ON TERMINAL NET SALVAGE APPLICABLE TO ATMOS**
9 **IN THIS CASE?**

10 A. No. Based upon my knowledge of the recent filings of electric utilities, there are
11 concerns regarding the terminal net salvage (dismantlement costs) for its
12 production assets. From my limited review, I believe there are issues about the
13 certainty of those costs being incurred. In that sense they are different. However,
14 I want to be clear on this topic, when terminal (end of life) removal costs are
15 known from past experience or are expected to occur, the method I have utilized
16 in this study (traditional or normal) is the most appropriate.

17 **Q. HAVE OTHER STATES RAISED THIS ISSUE AND IMPLEMENTED AN**
18 **ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO NET SALVAGE AND THEN**
19 **RETURNED TO THE TRADITIONAL OR “NORMAL” NET SALVAGE**
20 **APPROACH?**

21 A. Yes. In Missouri the Commission adopted a form of the present value approach.
22 However, the approach was litigated and appealed through all possible channels
23 and in the end (Ameren UE Final Order ER2007-0002), they returned to the

1 traditional methodology. Michigan also opened a separate docket to explore four
2 different calculation approaches (including variations of the present value
3 approach) and required the utilities to submit all four methodologies with their
4 depreciation testimony. After considerable time and evaluation, the Michigan
5 Commission issued an Order in Consumers Gas Docket No. U-15629 which
6 approved depreciation rates based on the traditional method of net salvage. This
7 precedent has been continued by the Michigan Public Service Commission for
8 every depreciation case litigated since Docket No. 15629. Most recently the
9 Georgia Public Service Commission reversed its position for Atlanta Gas Light
10 Company's net salvage methodology in Docket #31647-U and returned to the
11 traditional method as we are proposing here. It became clear to the Missouri,
12 Michigan and Georgia Commissions that approving and retaining alternate
13 methodologies over the long term will negatively impact customers and needed to
14 be reversed before the approach had a greater and greater negative impact on
15 customers.

16 **Q. YOU MAKE THE STATEMENT THESE ALTERNATIVE**
17 **METHODOLOGIES TO NET SALVAGE NEGATIVELY IMPACT**
18 **CUSTOMERS, CAN YOU EXPLAIN?**

19 A. Certainly. Under what is called a "current cost" or "present value" approach for
20 calculating net salvage, it significantly reduces the recovery of removal cost in
21 earlier years while dramatically increasing the costs to future customers. The
22 Company and its customers will be faced with significantly higher removal costs
23 in the future under those types of approaches.

1 **Q. ARE THERE ANY JURISDICTIONS THAT CURRENTLY USE A**
2 **METHODOLOGY DIFFERENT FROM THE TRADITIONAL NET**
3 **SALVAGE APPROACH?**

4 A. Yes, although most Commissions reject departing from the traditional net salvage
5 approach, there are a few states that have adopted an alternative approach.
6 Pennsylvania has a form of "Pay-As-You-Go" approach which was enacted by
7 legislation many years ago. New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington
8 D.C. are the only and most recent jurisdictions that I am aware of to approve an
9 alternate net salvage approach.

10 **Q. ARE THERE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES IN NEW JERSEY,**
11 **DELAWARE, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON D.C.?**

12 A. Yes. All four jurisdictions were reviewing electric general rate cases along with a
13 depreciation study and were facing dramatic increases in costs due to the effects
14 of coming off a rate freeze due to deregulation.

15 **Q. DO YOU SEE ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN THESE JURISDICTIONS**
16 **AND KANSAS AT THE PRESENT TIME?**

17 A. No. I believe that once the Staff and this Commission has compiled their research
18 on this issue, they will find, as the other Commissions have, that departure from a
19 long standing, fundamentally correct methodology is not the most appropriate
20 answer.

21 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO NET**
22 **SALVAGE IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD TO USE IN**
23 **CALCULATING RATES FOR ALL ACCOUNTS?**

1 A. Yes I do. As discussed above, these alternate approaches when implemented have
2 proven to be harmful to current customers and will further harm future customers.
3 The Company's depreciation study has addressed net salvage rates using the
4 traditional and fair method for all customers. The Company requests that the
5 Commission adopt the depreciation rates as presented in the Company's
6 depreciation study and described in this testimony.

7

8

IV. SHARED SERVICES UNIT DEPRECIATION STUDY

9 **Q. DID ALLIANCE PREPARE A 2010 DEPRECIATION STUDY FOR**
10 **ATMOS SHARED SERVICES?**

11 A. Yes. We have conducted a study as of September 30, 2010. The study
12 recommendations and results are attached to my direct testimony as Exhibit
13 DAW-2.

14 **Q. ARE THE STEPS DESCRIBED ABOVE FOR THE KANSAS DIVISION**
15 **DEPRECIATION STUDY THE SAME FOR THE SHARED SERVICES**
16 **ASSETS?**

17 A. Yes. The same approach and methods were used for both studies.

18 **Q. WHAT PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE SHARED SERVICES**
19 **DEPRECIATION STUDY?**

20 A. For Shared Services, there is one general class of depreciable property which is
21 related to general office activities. These assets include office buildings and
22 leasehold improvements, office furniture, communications equipment,
23 transportation equipment, computer software and hardware and other

1 miscellaneous general office assets.

2 **Q. WHAT TIME PERIOD WAS USED TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSED**
3 **DEPRECIATION RATES?**

4 A. The depreciation rates were developed based on the depreciable property recorded
5 on Shared Services' books at September 30, 2010.

6 **Q. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THE ATMOS SHARED SERVICES**
7 **DEPRECIATION STUDY?**

8 A. The 2010 Atmos Shared Services Depreciation Study is found in Exhibit DAW-2.
9 The annual depreciation and amortization expense for Atmos Shared Services is
10 approximately \$19.8 million per year. More details related to the study and
11 results are found in Exhibit DAW-2.

12 **Q. WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY FORCES AFFECTING THE**
13 **DEPRECIATION RATES RECOMMENDED IN THIS STUDY?**

14 A. Generally, depreciation rates are affected by three separate factors – changes in
15 average service life, changes in net salvage, and the effect of reserve position.
16 The Shared Service Division's depreciation rates only have two of these affecting
17 the rates, average service life and reserve position.

18 **Q. ARE THERE ANY GENERAL OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE**
19 **LIFE AND NET SALVAGE PARAMETERS BEING RECOMMENDED IN**
20 **THE STUDY YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN?**

21 A. Yes. There is significant investment in the Shared Services Division related to
22 technology-based assets which generally have shorter life expectations than gas
23 distribution assets. Discussions with Company personnel indicated the Company

1 has moved from a mainframe environment to a server environment. Four
2 accounts (399.04, 399.05, 399.09 and 399.24) are fully depreciated with the assets
3 in the accounts expected to retire soon. No analysis or depreciation rates are
4 provided for those four accounts in the 2010 Shared Services Depreciation Study.
5 The net salvage analyses for all Shared Services accounts indicate no salvage or
6 cost of removal is being experienced, therefore a zero percent net salvage rate is
7 recommended for each account in the Shared Services study. Detailed discussions
8 for each account can be found in Exhibit DAW-2.

9 **Q. WHAT ASSETS WERE ANALYZED FOR THE 2010 SHARED SERVICES**
10 **DEPRECIATION STUDY?**

11 A. The Shared Services assets perform a common service to all of Atmos'
12 companies, including its regulated utility operations across multiple states, Kansas
13 being one of the states. The assets used to perform these common services were
14 analyzed during the depreciation study. As previously stated these assets include,
15 but are not limited to, office buildings, furniture and equipment, communication
16 equipment, and any computer hardware or software utilized. The top three largest
17 investments in Shared Services are the application software, server hardware, and
18 communication equipment. These assets are primarily located in the Company's
19 home office in Dallas, Texas and the customer service centers in Amarillo, Texas
20 and Waco, Texas.

21 **Q. WHAT DEPRECIATION RATES DOES THE COMPANY PROPOSE TO**
22 **USE FOR SHARED SERVICES ASSETS?**

23 A. The Company proposes to utilize the depreciation rates proposed in the Alliance

1 depreciation study, which can be found in Exhibit DAW-2 on Appendix A.

2 **Q. HAS ALLIANCE QUANTIFIED THE DEPRECIATION EXPENSE FOR**
3 **SHARED SERVICES AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**
4 **THE PROPOSED DEPRECIATION RATES?**

5 A. Yes. Based on September 30, 2010 plant balances, the annual depreciation
6 expense related to Shared Services is approximately \$19.8 million which can be
7 found on Appendix A in Exhibit DAW-2. The direct impact to Atmos Kansas
8 customers is addressed by Witness Joe T. Christian.

9 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY REQUESTED APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED**
10 **SHARED SERVICES DEPRECIATION RATES IN ANY OTHER**
11 **STATES?**

12 A. Yes. Mississippi was the first state the Company has made a filing in since the
13 study's completion in June 2010. Additionally, consistent with past practice and
14 policy, the Company will request approval to utilize the proposed depreciation
15 rates in each of its other state jurisdictions at the time of its next filing to change
16 rates in its other jurisdictions.

17 **Q. WHEN WILL THE COMPANY CONDUCT ANOTHER SHARED**
18 **SERVICES DEPRECIATION STUDY?**

19 A. The Company has plans to perform a depreciation study on Shared Services assets
20 about every four years. The Company's objective is to have reasonable
21 depreciation rates in place that recognize the expense of those assets over their
22 useful lives. It is important that the depreciation rates be as reasonable as
23 possible, so the cost can be assessed to the proper generation of customer.

1 **V. CONCLUSION**

2 **Q. WHAT ACCOUNT DEPRECIATION RATES ARE YOU PROPOSING,**
3 **AND HOW DO THEY COMPARE WITH THE CURRENT RATES?**

4 A. The current depreciation rates and the rates I am now proposing related to the
5 Kansas Division are found in DAW Attachment 1 and in Appendix A of my
6 Exhibit DAW-1. The proposed rates for SSU are in Appendix A of my Exhibit
7 DAW-2. Detailed calculations and comparisons of these rates are found in my
8 studies, Exhibit DAW-1 and Exhibit DAW-2.

9 **Q. MR. WATSON, DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCLUDING REMARKS?**

10 A. Yes. The depreciation study and analysis performed under my supervision fully
11 support setting depreciation rates at the level I have indicated in my testimony.
12 The Company should continue to periodically review the annual depreciation
13 rates for its property. In this way, all customers are charged for their appropriate
14 share of the capital expended for their benefit. The depreciation study for Atmos
15 Energy's Kansas Division gas depreciable property as of September 30, 2011 and
16 the SSU depreciable property as of September 30, 2010 describes the extensive
17 analysis performed and the resulting rates that are now appropriate for Company
18 property. The Company's depreciation rates should be set at my recommended
19 amounts in order to recover the Company's total investment in property over the
20 estimated remaining life of the assets.

21 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

22 A. Yes, it does.

ATMOS ENERGY - KANSAS DIVISION
Depreciation Study as of September 30, 2011
Comparison of Existing vs. Proposed Accrual Rates

Account	Description	Plant Balance	Existing Annual		Proposed Annual		Change in Depreciation Expense
			Accrual Rate	Accrual Amount	Accrual Rate	Accrual Amount	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
STORAGE PLANT							
35020	Rights-of-Way	\$ 568,935.31	3.05%	\$ 17,352.53	1.76%	\$ 10,013.26	\$ (7,339.27)
35100	Well Structures	102,922.98	2.18%	2,243.72	2.13%	2,192.26	(51.46)
35200	Wells	1,136,224.55	4.62%	52,493.57	2.15%	24,428.83	(28,064.75)
35300	Pipelines	1,145,817.65	2.32%	26,582.97	2.36%	27,041.30	458.33
35400	Compressor Station Equipment	2,259,429.59	4.02%	90,829.07	2.90%	65,523.46	(25,305.61)
35500	M&R Equipment	220,010.72	4.69%	10,318.50	2.72%	5,984.29	(4,334.21)
35600	Purification Equipment	288,382.11	4.37%	12,602.30	1.80%	5,190.88	(7,411.42)
35700	Other Equipment	125,321.36	3.07%	3,847.37	2.10%	2,631.75	(1,215.62)
	Total Storage	5,847,044.27	3.70%	216,270.03	2.45%	143,006.02	(73,264.01)
TRANSMISSION PLANT							
36520	Rights-of-Way	9,037.30	1.95%	176.23	2.12%	191.59	15.36
36600	Structures & Improvements	33,191.19	1.89%	627.31	2.89%	959.23	331.91
36700	Mains - Cathodic Protection	3,452,903.74	1.64%	56,627.62	2.36%	81,488.53	24,860.91
36701	Mains - Steel	143,453.18	1.64%	2,352.63	3.44%	4,934.79	2,582.16
36703	Mains Anodes	2,334.13	1.64%	38.28	4.57%	106.67	68.39
36704	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	0.00	1.64%	0.00	8.33%	0.00	0.00
36800	Compressor Station Equipment	31,496.47	5.47%	1,722.86	5.96%	1,877.19	154.33
36900	M&R Station Equipment	526,227.23	2.09%	10,998.15	4.19%	22,048.92	11,050.77
	Total Transmission	4,198,643.24	1.73%	72,543.08	2.66%	111,606.91	39,063.83
DISTRIBUTION PLANT							
37402	Rights-of-Way	292,602.99	2.92%	8,544.01	2.12%	6,203.18	(2,340.82)
37500	Structures & Improvements	119,493.70	3.10%	3,704.30	4.27%	5,102.38	1,398.08
37600	Mains - Cathodic Protection	4,179,130.11	2.02%	84,418.43	3.33%	139,165.03	54,746.60
37601	Mains - Steel	32,805,122.95	2.02%	662,663.48	3.08%	1,010,397.79	347,734.30
37602	Mains - Plastic	78,899,087.04	2.02%	1,593,761.56	3.24%	2,556,330.42	962,568.86
37603	Mains - Anodes	2,985,070.81	2.02%	60,298.43	7.19%	214,626.59	154,328.16
37604	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	5,594,122.06	2.02%	113,001.27	14.20%	794,365.33	681,364.07
37800	M&R Station Equipment	3,571,300.76	4.74%	169,279.66	5.33%	190,350.33	21,070.67
37900	City Gate Equipment	2,207,812.05	2.53%	55,857.64	4.16%	91,844.98	35,987.34
37908	City Gate Equipment	14,850.51	2.53%	375.72	4.14%	614.81	239.09
38000	Services	57,635,135.19	3.49%	2,011,466.22	5.41%	3,118,060.81	1,106,594.60
38100	Meters	15,021,142.34	5.12%	769,082.49	6.93%	1,040,965.16	271,882.68
38200	Meter Installations	23,917,802.91	6.86%	1,640,761.28	7.39%	1,767,525.64	126,764.36
38300	House Regulators	2,209,798.32	2.66%	58,780.64	6.70%	148,056.49	89,275.85
38400	House Regulator Installations	209,461.47	1.65%	3,456.11	7.23%	15,144.06	11,687.95
38500	Industrial M&R Equipment	951,405.33	3.78%	35,963.12	6.29%	59,843.40	23,880.27
38700	Other Equipment	613,731.61	15.08%	92,550.73	7.47%	45,845.75	(46,704.98)
	Total Distribution	231,227,070.15	3.18%	7,363,965.08	4.85%	11,204,442.16	3,840,477.08
GENERAL PLANT - DEPRECIATED							
39000	Structures & Improvements	1,853,668.26	3.31%	61,356.42	3.26%	60,429.59	(926.83)
39003	Improvements	1,512.88	3.31%	50.08	4.15%	62.78	12.71
39004	Air Conditioning Equipment	8,781.87	3.31%	290.68	4.17%	366.20	75.52
39009	Leasehold Improvements	39,013.13	3.31%	1,291.33	4.20%	1,638.55	347.22
39200	Transportation Equipment	645,301.60	25.98%	167,649.36	17.99%	116,089.76	(51,559.60)
39600	Power Operated Equipment	490,962.01	16.62%	81,597.89	14.31%	70,256.66	(11,341.22)
39604	Backhoes	203,475.27	16.62%	33,817.59	15.03%	30,582.33	(3,235.26)
39605	Welders	54,818.88	16.62%	9,110.90	14.52%	7,959.70	(1,151.20)
	Total General Depreciated	3,297,533.90	10.77%	355,164.24	8.72%	287,385.58	(67,778.66)
	Total Depreciated	\$ 244,570,291.56	3.27%	\$ 8,007,942.43	4.80%	\$ 11,746,440.68	\$ 3,738,498.25
GENERAL PLANT - AMORTIZED							
39100	Office Furniture & Equipment	429,389.08	12.20%	52,385.47	7.38%	31,688.91	(20,696.55)
39300	Stores Equipment	1,308.13	7.85%	102.69	4.69%	61.35	(41.34)
39400	Tools, Shop, & Garage Equipment	2,473,079.70	8.03%	198,588.30	7.72%	190,921.75	(7,666.55)
39500	Laboratory Equipment	14,057.47	5.13%	721.15	7.98%	1,121.79	400.64
39700	Communication Equipment	410,878.57	11.96%	49,141.08	8.93%	36,691.46	(12,449.62)
39701	Mobile Radios	7,901.70	11.96%	945.04	16.38%	1,294.30	349.26
39702	Fixed Radios	6,064.82	11.96%	725.35	8.89%	539.16	(186.19)
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	7,674.27	6.59%	505.73	6.85%	525.69	19.95
39901	Servers Hardware	25,349.38	7.21%	1,827.69	15.28%	3,873.39	2,045.69
39902	Servers Software	63,701.89	7.21%	4,592.91	17.92%	11,415.38	6,822.47
39903	Network Hardware	180,428.24	7.21%	13,008.88	16.82%	30,348.03	17,339.15
39906	PC Hardware	588,495.87	7.21%	42,430.55	32.78%	192,908.95	150,478.39
39907	PC Software	84,069.92	7.21%	6,061.44	30.37%	25,532.03	19,470.59
39908	Application Software	213,445.03	7.21%	15,389.39	17.19%	36,691.20	21,301.81
	Total General Amortized after Retirements	4,505,844.07	8.58%	386,425.66	12.51%	563,613.38	177,187.72
	Total Depreciated & Amortized	\$ 249,076,135.63	3.37%	\$ 8,394,368.09	4.94%	\$ 12,310,054.06	\$ 3,915,685.97

DAW Attachment 2

ATMOS ENERGY - KANSAS DIVISION
 Depreciation Study as of September 30, 2011
 Comparison of Life Parameters

Account	Description	EXISTING		PROPOSED		Diff
		ASL	lowa Curve	ASL	lowa Curve	
		Years		Years		Years
STORAGE PLANT						
35020	Rights-of-Way	50	R5	50	R5	0
35100	Well Structures	40	R4	40	R4	0
35200	Wells	50	S4	50	S4	0
35202	Reservoirs	60	R3	70	R3	10
35300	Pipelines	50	S2	60	R3	10
35400	Compressor Station Equipment	25	S2	50	S2	25
35500	M&R Equipment	25	S2	25	S2	0
35600	Purification Equipment	30	R4	30	R4	0
35700	Other Equipment	35	R5	35	R5	0
TRANSMISSION PLANT						
36520	Rights-of-Way	50	R5	50	R5	0
36600	Structures & Improvements	40	R2.5	40	R2.5	0
36700	Mains - Cathodic Protection	50	S2	50	R1.5	0
36701	Mains - Steel	50	S2	50	R1.5	0
36703	Mains Anodes	N/A	N/A	16	SQ	N/A
36704	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	N/A	N/A	12	SQ	N/A
36800	Compressor Station Equipment	20	SQ	20	SQ	0
36900	M&R Station Equipment	30	R0.5	30	R0.5	0
DISTRIBUTION PLANT						
37402	Rights-of-Way	50	R5	50	R5	0
37500	Structures & Improvements	35	L2	31	L2	(4)
37600	Mains - Cathodic Protection	50	S2	50	R1.5	0
37601	Mains - Steel	50	S2	50	R1.5	0
37602	Mains - Plastic	50	S2	50	R1.5	0
37603	Mains - Anodes	N/A	N/A	16	SQ	N/A
37604	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	N/A	N/A	12	SQ	N/A
37800	M&R Station Equipment	25	S2	25	R0.5	0
37900	City Gate Equipment	30	R1	30	R2	0
37908	City Gate Equipment	30	R1	30	R2	0
38000	Services	40	S1	38	S1	(2)
38100	Meters	20	R0.5	20	R1	0
38200	Meter Installations	20	R0.5	20	R1	0
38300	House Regulators	30	R0.5	20	R1	(10)
38400	House Regulator Installations	30	S5	20	R1	(10)
38500	Industrial M&R Equipment	25	R0.5	23	R0.5	(2)
38700	Other Equipment	20	L3	18	L3	(2)

ATMOS ENERGY - KANSAS DIVISION
Depreciation Study as of September 30, 2011
Comparison of Life Parameters

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>		<u>PROPOSED</u>		<u>Diff</u>
		<u>ASL</u>	<u>lowa</u> <u>Curve</u>	<u>ASL</u>	<u>lowa</u> <u>Curve</u>	
		<u>Years</u>		<u>Years</u>		<u>Years</u>
GENERAL PLANT						
39000	Structures & Improvements	30	R2	40	R2	10
39003	Improvements	30	R2	30	R2	0
39004	Air Conditioning Equipment	30	R2	30	R2	0
39009	Leasehold Improvements	30	R2	30	R2	0
39100	Office Furniture & Equipment	15	R5	15	SQ	0
39103	Office Machines	15	R5	15	SQ	0
39200	Transportation Equipment	6	L3	6	L3	0
39300	Stores Equipment	28	R0.5	28	SQ	0
39400	Tools, Shop, & Garage Equipment	15	L5	15	SQ	0
39500	Laboratory Equipment	20	S6	15	SQ	(5)
39600	Power Operated Equipment	10	L4	8	R3	(2)
39603	Ditchers	* 10	L4	8	R3	(2)
39604	Backhoes	10	L4	8	R3	(2)
39605	Welders	10	L4	8	R3	(2)
39700	Communication Equipment	12	S6	12	SQ	0
39701	Mobile Radios	12	S6	12	SQ	0
39702	Fixed Radios	12	S6	12	SQ	0
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	15	R1	15	SQ	0
39900	Other Tangible Property	8	S5	7	SQ	(1)
39901	Servers Hardware	8	S5	7	SQ	(1)
39902	Servers Software	8	S5	7	SQ	(1)
39903	Network Hardware	8	S5	7	SQ	(1)
39905	Mainframe Hardware	8	S5	7	SQ	(1)
39906	PC Hardware	8	S5	4	SQ	(4)
39907	PC Software	8	S5	4	SQ	(4)
39908	Application Software	8	S5	7	SQ	(1)

*Denotes Accounts are currently fully depreciated

ATMOS ENERGY - KANSAS DIVISION
Depreciation Study as of September 30, 2011
Comparison of Net Salvage Parameters

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Existing</u> <u>Net Salvage</u> %	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Net Salvage</u> %	<u>Change</u> %
STORAGE PLANT				
35020	Rights-of-Way	0%	0%	0%
35100	Well Structures	0%	0%	0%
35200	Wells	-100%	-20%	80%
35202	Reservoirs *	0%	0%	0%
35300	Pipelines	-25%	-25%	0%
35400	Compressor Station Equipment	-5%	0%	5%
35500	M&R Equipment	-5%	0%	5%
35600	Purification Equipment	0%	0%	0%
35700	Other Equipment	0%	0%	0%
TRANSMISSION PLANT				
36520	Rights-of-Way	0%	0%	0%
36600	Structures & Improvements	-10%	-10%	0%
36700	Mains - Cathodic Protection	-15%	-12%	3%
36701	Mains - Steel	-15%	-12%	3%
36703	Mains Anodes	N/A	0%	N/A
36704	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	N/A	0%	N/A
36800	Compressor Station Equipment	-10%	-10%	0%
36900	M&R Station Equipment	-20%	-20%	0%
DISTRIBUTION PLANT				
37402	Rights-of-Way	0%	0%	0%
37500	Structures & Improvements	-5%	-5%	0%
37600	Mains - Cathodic Protection	-25%	-25%	0%
37601	Mains - Steel	-25%	-25%	0%
37602	Mains - Plastic	-25%	-25%	0%
37603	Mains - Anodes	N/A	0%	N/A
37604	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	N/A	0%	N/A
37800	M&R Station Equipment	-5%	-5%	0%
37900	City Gate Equipment	0%	-5%	-5%
37908	City Gate Equipment	0%	-5%	-5%
38000	Services	-45%	-65%	-20%
38100	Meters	-20%	-20%	0%
38200	Meter Installations	-20%	-20%	0%
38300	House Regulators	-5%	-20%	-15%
38400	House Regulator Installations	0%	-20%	-20%
38500	Industrial M&R Equipment	0%	-5%	-5%
38700	Other Equipment	-5%	-5%	0%

ATMOS ENERGY - KANSAS DIVISION
Depreciation Study as of September 30, 2011
Comparison of Net Salvage Parameters

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Existing</u> <u>Net Salvage</u> %	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Net Salvage</u> %	<u>Change</u> %
GENERAL PLANT				
39000	Structures & Improvements	0%	0%	0%
39003	Improvements	0%	0%	0%
39004	Air Conditioning Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39009	Leasehold Improvements	0%	0%	0%
39100	Office Furniture & Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39103	Office Machines	0%	0%	0%
39200	Transportation Equipment	5%	10%	5%
39300	Stores Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39400	Tools, Shop, & Garage Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39500	Laboratory Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39600	Power Operated Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39603	Ditchers *	0%	4%	4%
39604	Backhoes	0%	4%	4%
39605	Welders	0%	4%	4%
39700	Communication Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39701	Mobile Radios	0%	0%	0%
39702	Fixed Radios	0%	0%	0%
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	0%	0%	0%
39900	Other Tangible Property	0%	0%	0%
39901	Servers Hardware	0%	0%	0%
39902	Servers Software	0%	0%	0%
39903	Network Hardware	0%	0%	0%
39905	Mainframe Hardware	0%	0%	0%
39906	PC Hardware	0%	0%	0%
39907	PC Software	0%	0%	0%
39908	Application Software	0%	0%	0%

*Denotes Accounts are currently fully depreciated.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF TEXAS

§
§
§

COUNTY OF COLLIN

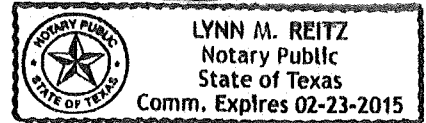
Dane A. Watson, being duly sworn upon his oath, deposes and states that he is a Partner of Alliance Consulting Group; that he has read and is familiar with the foregoing Direct Testimony filed herewith; and that the statements made therein are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Dane A. Watson
Dane A. Watson

Subscribed and sworn before me this 13th day of January, 2012.

Lynn M. Reitz
Notary Public

My appointment expires: 02-23-2015



ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
KANSAS DIVISION
DEPRECIATION RATE STUDY
As of September 30, 2011



<http://www.utilityalliance.com>

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
KANSAS DIVISION
DEPRECIATION RATE STUDY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos” or “Company”) engaged Alliance Consulting Group to conduct a depreciation study of the Company’s Kansas Division (“Kansas”) natural gas operations depreciable assets as of fiscal year end September 30, 2011.

The existing depreciation rates were based on the straight-line method, equal life group (“ELG”) procedure, and remaining-life technique and are retained in this study. This study recommends an increase of \$3.9 million in annual depreciation expense when compared to the depreciation rates currently in effect. Life estimates showed the following changes: four accounts have an increase in life, 19 accounts have a decrease in life, 33 accounts remained unchanged and there are four accounts for which no comparison is possible. Net salvage showed the following changes: six accounts have a decrease in net salvage (more negative), nine accounts have an increase in net salvage (less negative), 41 accounts remained unchanged and there are four account for which no comparison is possible.

The depreciation study we conducted analyzed and developed depreciation recommendations at an account level. The resulting annual depreciation accrual amounts and depreciation rates contained in this study are at the account level. The Company will accrue depreciation expense based on the account level depreciation rates developed in this study. The depreciation study also reflects the implementation of Vintaged Group Amortization for certain General Plant accounts based on FERC Accounting Release 15 (“AR-15”) issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Authority (“FERC”). Appendix A demonstrates the change in depreciation expense.

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
KANSAS DIVISION
DEPRECIATION RATE STUDY
As of September 30, 2011
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to develop depreciation rates for the depreciable property as recorded on Atmos' books at September 30, 2011. The account based depreciation rates were designed to recover the total remaining undepreciated investment, adjusted for net salvage, over the remaining life of Atmos' property on a straight-line basis. Non-depreciable property and property which is amortized such as intangible software were excluded from this study.

Atmos provides local gas distribution service to over 127,000 customers in more than a 100 towns and commercial customers in Kansas. Its assets consist of a complex system of some high pressure transmission, but primarily high, intermediate and low pressure distribution networks, including over 4800 miles of gas distribution mains, located across the service area. It has a number of receipt points or city gates, throughout the system where gas enters the distribution system and is then delivered to customers for burner tip consumption.

STUDY RESULTS

The existing and current study of annual depreciation expense results from the use of Iowa Curve dispersion patterns with the straight-line method, equal life group ("ELG") procedure and remaining-life technique, and consideration of net salvage in the development of the study recommended depreciation rates. Detailed information for each of these factors will follow in this report.

Overall depreciation rates for Kansas depreciable property are shown in Appendix A. The recommended rates translate into an annual depreciation accrual of \$12.3 million based on Kansas's depreciable investment at September 30, 2011. The annual equivalent depreciation expense calculated by the same method using the currently approved rates was \$8.4 million. The primary drivers for the increase in the annual depreciation expense when compared to the existing is the change in procedure from the Average Life Group ("ALG") to ELG and the change in life and net salvage for Account 380, Services.

Consistent with FERC Rule AR-15, this depreciation study develops depreciation expense for Vintaged Group Amortization in Accounts 391 through 399, excluding 392 and 396. This process provides for the amortization of general plant over the same life as recommended in this study (with a separate amortization to allocate deficit or excess reserve). At the end of the amortized life, property will be retired from the books. Implementation of this approach did not affect the annual expense accrued by Atmos Kansas and provides for the timely retirement of assets and the simplification of accounting for general property. The FERC and numerous other Public Utility Commissions around the country have approved this approach since the early 1990's.

Appendix A presents a comparison of the composite existing rates versus the recommended study rates. Appendix B presents the development of the depreciation rates and annual accruals. Appendix C presents the mortality and net salvage parameters by account. Appendix D shows net salvage history by plant account.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Definition

The term "depreciation" as used in this study is considered in the accounting sense, that is, a system of accounting that distributes the cost of assets, less net salvage (if any), over the estimated useful life of the assets in a systematic and rational manner. It is a process of allocation, not valuation. This expense is systematically allocated to accounting periods over the life of the properties. The amount allocated to any one accounting period does not necessarily represent the loss or decrease in value that will occur during that particular period. The Company accrues depreciation on the basis of the original cost of all depreciable property included in each functional property group. On retirement the full cost of depreciable property, less the net salvage value, is charged to the depreciation reserve.

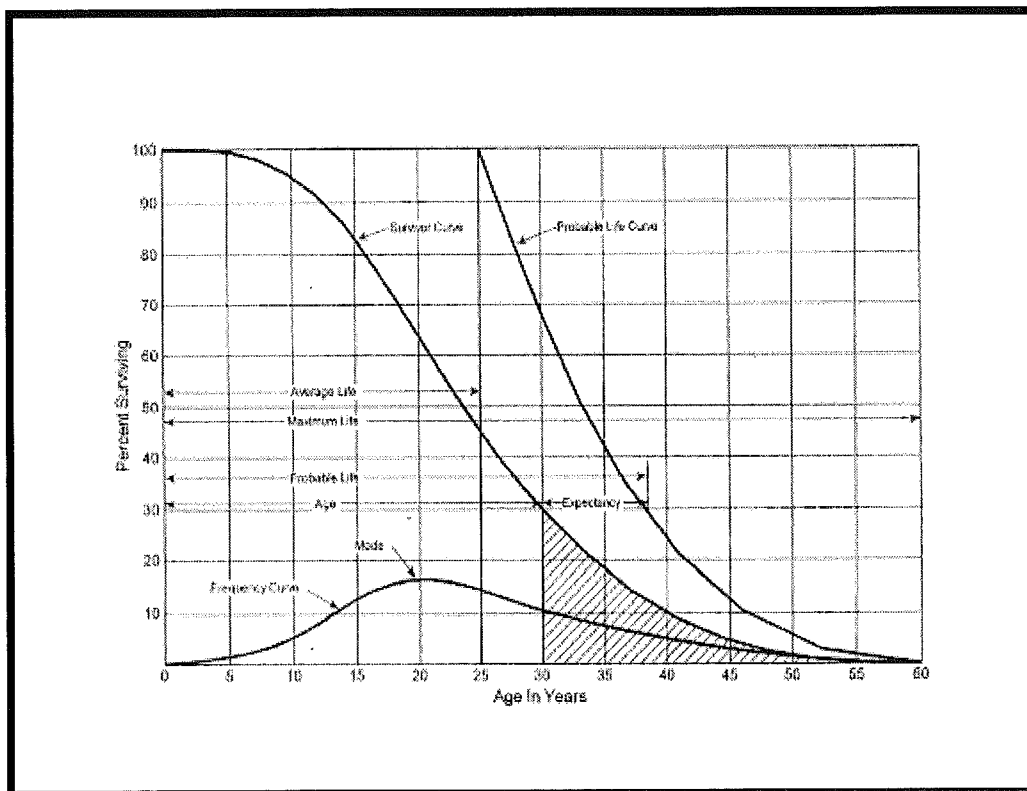
Basis of Depreciation Estimates

The straight-line, equal life group ("ELG"), remaining-life depreciation system was employed to calculate annual and accrued depreciation in this study. In this system, the annual depreciation expense for each group is computed by dividing the original cost of the asset less allocated depreciation reserve less estimated net salvage by its respective equal life group remaining life. The resulting annual accrual amounts of all depreciable property within a function were accumulated, and the total was divided by the original cost of all functional depreciable property to determine the depreciation rate. The calculated remaining lives and annual depreciation accrual rates were based on attained ages of plant in service and the estimated service life and salvage characteristics of each depreciable group. The computations of the annual depreciation rates are shown in Appendix B and remaining life calculations are provided in the workpapers.

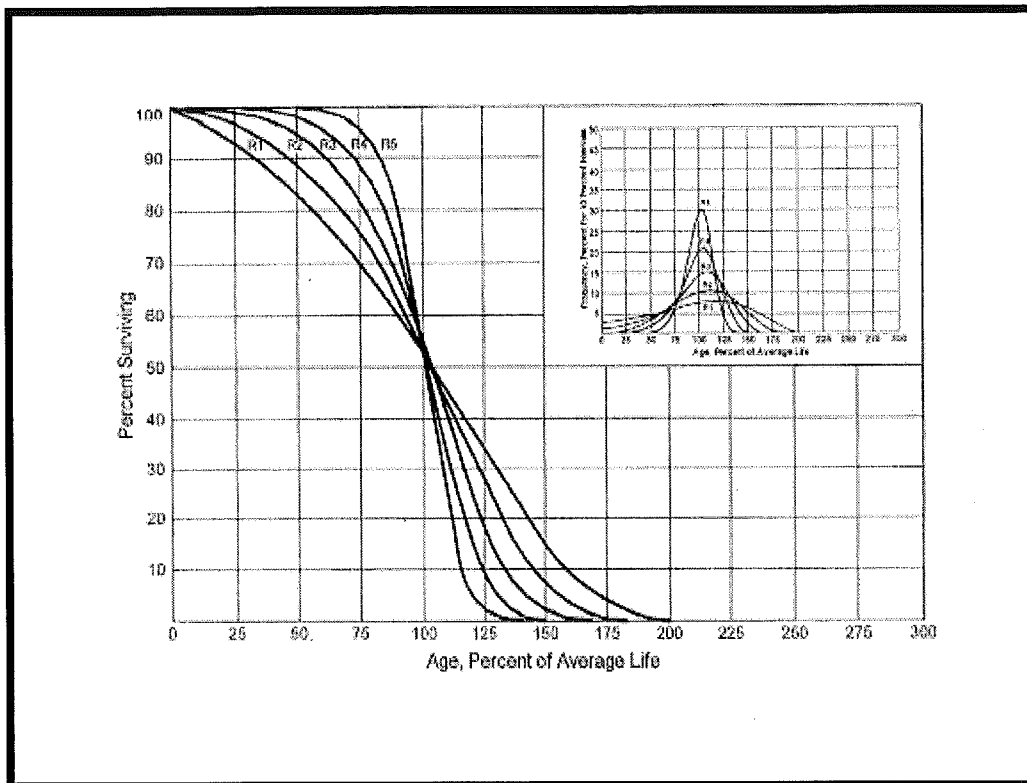
The Simulated Plant Record ("SPR") balances approach of life analysis was used with each account within a function where sufficient activity occurred within the account, and judgment was used to some degree on all accounts.

Survivor Curves

To fully understand depreciation projections in a regulated utility setting, there must be a basic understanding of survivor curves. Individual property units within a group do not normally have identical lives or investment amounts. The average life of a group can be determined by first constructing a survivor curve which is plotted as a percentage of the units surviving at each age. A survivor curve represents the percentage of property remaining in service at various age intervals. The Iowa Curves are the result of an extensive investigation of life characteristics of physical property made at Iowa State College Engineering Experiment Station in the first half of the prior century. Through common usage, revalidation and regulatory acceptance, these curves have become a descriptive standard for the life characteristics of industrial property. An example of an Iowa Curve is shown below.



There are four families in the lowa Curves that are distinguished by the relation of the age at the retirement mode (largest annual retirement frequency) and the average life. For distributions with the mode age greater than the average life, an "R" designation (i.e., Right modal) is used. The family of "R" moded curves is shown below.



Similarly, an "S" designation (i.e., Symmetric modal) is used for the family whose mode age is symmetric about the average life. An "L" designation (i.e., Left modal) is used for the family whose mode age is less than the average life. A special case of left modal dispersion is the "O" or origin modal curve family. Within each curve family, numerical designations are used to describe the relative magnitude of the retirement frequencies at the mode. A "6" indicates that the retirements are not greatly dispersed from the mode (i.e., high mode frequency) while a "1" indicates a large dispersion about the mode (i.e., low mode frequency). For example, a curve with an average life

of 30 years and an "L3" dispersion is a moderately dispersed, left modal curve that can be designated as a 30 L3 Curve. An SQ, or square, survivor curve occurs where no dispersion is present (i.e., units of common age retire simultaneously).

Most property groups can be closely fitted to one Iowa Curve with a unique average service life. The blending of judgment concerning current conditions and future trends along with the matching of historical data permits the depreciation analyst to make an informed selection of an account's average life and retirement dispersion pattern.

Simulated Plant Record Procedure

The SPR - Balances approach is one of the commonly accepted approaches to analyze mortality characteristics of utility property. SPR was applied to all accounts due to the unavailability of vintaged transactional data. In this method, an Iowa Curve and average service life are selected as a starting point of the analysis and its survivor factors are applied to the actual annual additions to give a sequence of annual balance totals. These simulated balances are compared with the actual balances by using both graphical and statistical analysis. Through multiple comparisons, the mortality characteristics (as defined by an average life and Iowa Curve) that are the best match to the property in the account can be found.

The Conformance Index (CI) is one measure used to evaluate various SPR analyses. CIs are also used to evaluate the "goodness of fit" between the actual data and the Iowa Curve being referenced. The sum of squares difference (SSD) is a summation of the difference between the calculated balances and the actual balances for the band or test year being analyzed. This difference is squared and then summed to arrive at the SSD, where n is the number of years in the test band.

$$SSD = \sum_i^n (Calculated\ Balance_i - Observed\ Balance_i)^2$$

This calculation can then be used to develop other calculations, which the analyst feels might give a better indication for the "goodness of fit" for the representative curve

under consideration. The residual measure (RM) is the square root of the average squared differences as developed above. The residual measure is calculated as follows:

$$RM = \sqrt{\left(\frac{SSD}{n} \right)}$$

The conformance index (CI) is developed from the residual measure and the average observed plant balances for the band or test year being analyzed. The calculation of conformance index is shown below:

$$CI = \frac{\sum_i^n Balances_i / n}{RM}$$

The retirement experience index (REI) gives an indication of the maturity of the account and is the percent of the property retired from the oldest vintage in the band at the end of the test year. Retirement indices range from 0 percent to 100 percent and a REI of 100 percent indicates that a complete curve was used. A retirement index less than 100 percent indicates that the survivor curve was truncated at that point. The originator of the SPR method, Alex Bauhan, suggests ranges of value for the CI and REI. The relationship for CI proposed by Bauhan is shown below¹:

CI	Value
Over 75	Excellent
50 to 75	Good
25 to 50	Fair
Under 25	Poor

¹ Public Utility Depreciation Practices, p. 96.

The relationship for REI proposed by Bauhan² is shown below:

REI	Value
Over 75	Excellent
50 to 75	Good
33 to 50	Fair
17 to 33	Poor
17 and below	Valueless

Depreciation analysts have used these measures in analyzing SPR results for nearly 60 years, since the SPR method was developed. Both the CI and REI statistics provide the analyst with important information with which to make a comparison between a band of simulated or calculated balances and the observed or actual balances in the account being studied. It is important to understand that observing the pattern of best-fitting curves over various bands, as well as considering other company and asset-specific information, is important in the ultimate decision for the most appropriate live and curve combination that will reflect future retirements of each account.

Statistics are useful in analyzing mortality characteristics of accounts, as well as determining a range of service lives to be analyzed using the detailed graphical method. However, these statistics boil all the information down to one, or at most, a few numbers for comparison. Visual matching through comparison between actual and calculated balances expands the analysis by permitting the analyst to view many points of data at a time. The goodness of fit should be visually compared to plots of other Iowa Curve dispersions and average lives for the selection of the appropriate curve and life. Detailed information for each account is shown later in this study and in workpapers.

² Public Utility Depreciation Practices, p. 97.

Judgment

Any depreciation study requires informed judgment by the analyst conducting the study. A knowledge of the property being studied, company policies and procedures, general trends in technology and industry practice, and a sound basis of understanding depreciation theory are needed to apply this informed judgment. Judgment was used in areas such as survivor curve modeling and selection, depreciation method selection, simulated plant record method analysis, and actuarial analysis.

Judgment is not defined as being used in cases where there are specific, significant pieces of information that influence the choice of a life or curve. Those cases would simply be a reflection of specific facts into the analysis. Where there are multiple factors, activities, actions, property characteristics, statistical inconsistencies, implications of applying certain curves, property mix in accounts or a multitude of other considerations that impact the analysis (potentially in various directions), judgment is used to take all of these factors and synthesize them into a general direction or understanding of the characteristics of the property. In these cases, it is rare for one factor to individually have a substantial impact on the analysis. However, individual factors, may shed light on the utilization and characteristics of assets. Judgment may also be defined as deduction, inference, wisdom, common sense, or the ability to make sensible decisions. There is no single correct result from statistical analysis; hence, there is no answer absent judgment. At the very least for example, any analysis requires choosing upon which bands to place more emphasis.

The establishment of appropriate average service lives and retirement dispersions for the Storage, Transmission, Distribution and General accounts requires judgment to incorporate the understanding of the operation of the system with the available accounting information analyzed using the SPR balance methods. The appropriateness of lives and curves depends not only on statistical analyses, but also on how well future retirement patterns will match past retirements.

Current applications and trends in use of the equipment also need to be factored into life and survivor curve choices in order for appropriate mortality characteristics to be chosen.

Equal Life Group Depreciation

Atmos agreed that the continued use of the ELG depreciation procedure was appropriate. This study uses the ELG depreciation procedure to group the assets within each account. After an average service life and dispersion were selected for each account, those parameters were used to estimate what portion of the surviving investment of each vintage was expected to retire. The depreciation of the group continues until all investment in the vintage group is retired. ELG groups are defined by their respective account dispersion, life, and net salvage estimates. A straight-line rate for each ELG group is computed and accumulated across each vintage. The resulting rate for each ELG group is designed to recover all retirements less net salvage as each vintage retires. The ELG procedure recovers net book cost over the life of each ELG group rather than averaging many components. It also closely matches the concept of component or item accounting found in all accounting textbooks.

Theoretical Depreciation Reserve

The Company's book depreciation reserves were reallocated within each function by plant account based on the theoretical reserves for each account. This study used a reserve model that relied on a prospective concept relating future retirement and accrual patterns for property, given current life and salvage estimates. The theoretical reserve of a group is developed from the estimated remaining life, total life of the property group, and estimated net salvage. The theoretical reserve represents the portion of the group cost that would have been accrued if current forecasts were used throughout the life of the group for future depreciation accruals. The computation involves multiplying the vintage balances within the group by the theoretical reserve ratio for each vintage. The equal life

group method requires an estimate of dispersion and service life to establish how much of each vintage is expected to be retired in each year until all property within the vintage is retired. Estimated average service lives and dispersion determine the amount within each equal life group. The equal life group-remaining-life theoretical reserve ratio (RRELG) is calculated as:

$$RRELG = 1 - \frac{(ELG \text{ Remaining Life})}{(ELG \text{ Life})} * (1 - \text{Net Salvage Ratio})$$

DETAILED DISCUSSION

Depreciation Study Process

This depreciation study encompassed four distinct phases. The first phase involved data collection and field interviews. The second phase was where the initial data analysis occurred. The third phase was where the information and analysis was evaluated. Once the first three stages were complete, the fourth phase began. This phase involved the calculation of depreciation rates and documenting the corresponding recommendations.

During the Phase I data collection process, historical data was compiled from continuing property records and general ledger systems. Data was validated for accuracy by extracting and comparing to multiple financial system sources. Audit of this data was validated against historical data from prior periods, historical general ledger sources, and field personnel discussions. This data was reviewed extensively to put in the proper format for a depreciation study. Further discussion on data review and adjustment is found in the Salvage Considerations Section of this study. Also as part of the Phase I data collection process, numerous discussions were conducted with engineers and field operations personnel to obtain information that would assist in formulating life and salvage recommendations in this study. One of the most important elements of performing a proper depreciation study is to understand how the Company utilizes assets and the environment of those assets. Interviews with engineering and operations personnel are important ways to allow the analyst to obtain information that is beneficial when evaluating the output from the life and net salvage programs in relation to the Company's actual asset utilization and environment. Information that was gleaned in these discussions is found both in the Detailed Discussion of this study in the life analysis section, the salvage analysis section, and also in workpapers.

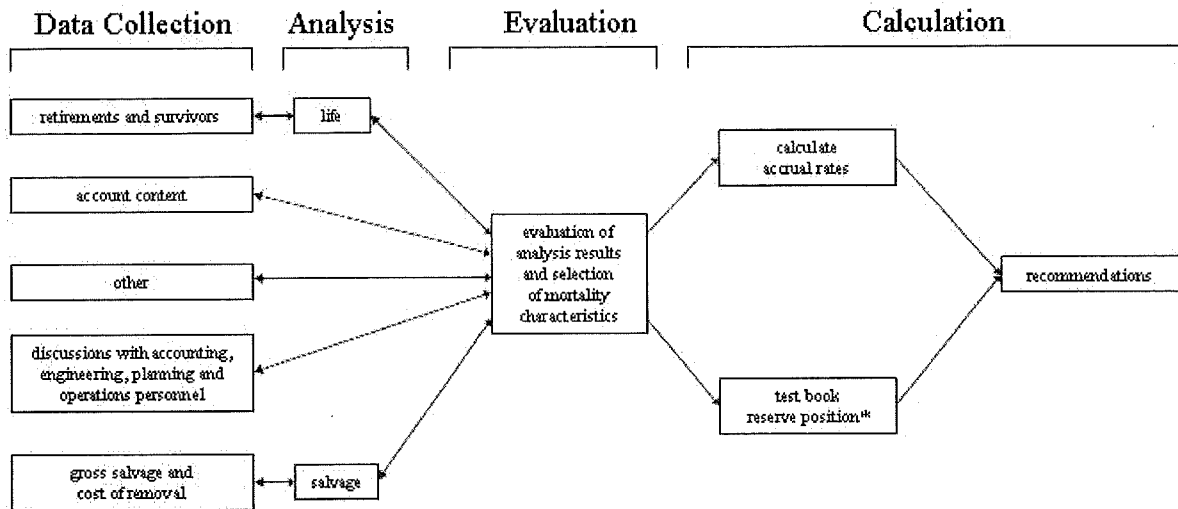
Phase 2 was where the SPR analysis was performed. Phase 2 and 3 overlap to a significant degree. The detailed property records information is used in phase 2 to develop observed life tables for life analysis. These tables were visually compared to industry standard tables to determine historical life characteristics. It is possible that the analyst would cycle back to this phase based on the evaluation process performed in phase 3. Net salvage analysis consists of compiling historical salvage and removal data by functional group to determine values and trends in gross salvage and removal cost. This information was then carried forward into phase 3 for the evaluation process.

Phase 3 was the evaluation process which synthesized analysis, interviews, and operational characteristics into a final selection of asset lives and net salvage parameters. The historical analysis from phase 2 was further enhanced by the incorporation of recent or future changes in the characteristics or operations of assets that were revealed in phase 1. Phases 2 and 3 allowed the depreciation analyst to validate the asset characteristics as seen in the accounting transactions with actual Company operational experience.

Finally, Phase 4 involved the calculation of accrual rates, making recommendations and documenting the conclusions in the final report. The calculation of accrual rates is found in Appendix A. Recommendations for the various accounts are contained within the Detailed Discussion of this report. The depreciation study flow diagram shown as Figure 1³ documents the steps used in conducting this study. Depreciation Systems, page 289 documents the same basic processes in performing a depreciation study which are: Statistical analysis, evaluation of statistical analysis, discussions with management, forecast assumptions, write logic supporting forecasts and estimation, and write final report.

³Public Utility Finance & Accounting, A Reader

Book Depreciation Study Flow Diagram



Source: Public Utility Finance & Accounting
A Reader

* not required if remaining life rates are calculated

Figure 1

ATMOS KANSAS DEPRECIATION STUDY PROCESS

Depreciation Rate Calculation

Annual depreciation expense amounts for the depreciable property accounts of Atmos were calculated by the straight line, equal life group, and remaining-life system. With this approach, remaining lives were calculated according to standard ELG group expectancy techniques, using the Iowa Survivor Curves noted in the calculation. For each plant account, the difference between the surviving investment, adjusted for estimated net salvage and the allocated book depreciation reserve, was divided by the average remaining life to yield the annual depreciation expense. These calculations are shown in Appendix B.

Remaining Life Calculation

The establishment of appropriate average service lives and retirement dispersions for each account within a functional group was based on engineering judgment that incorporated available accounting information analyzed using the actuarial methods. After establishment of appropriate average service lives and retirement dispersions, remaining lives were computed for each account. The theoretical depreciation reserve with zero net salvage (used in calculating remaining life) was calculated using theoretical reserve ratios as defined in the theoretical reserve portion of the general discussion section. The difference between plant balance and theoretical reserve was then spread over the ELG depreciation accruals. After accumulating the ELG accruals across each vintage, the annual accrual was divided into the net balance to compute remaining life. Details of the theoretical reserve computations, ELG accruals, and remaining life are found by account in the study workpapers.

Calculation Process

Annual depreciation expense amounts for all accounts were calculated by the straight line, remaining life procedure.

In a whole life representation, the annual accrual rate is computed by the following equation,

$$\text{Annual Accrual Rate} = \frac{(100\% - \text{Net Salvage Percent})}{\text{Average Service Life}}$$

Use of the remaining life depreciation system adds a self-correcting mechanism, which accounts for any differences between theoretical and book depreciation reserve over the remaining life of the group. With the straight line, remaining life, average life group system using Iowa Curves, composite remaining lives were calculated according to standard broad group expectancy techniques, noted in the formula below:

$$\text{Composite Remaining Life} = \frac{\sum \text{Original Cost} - \text{Theoretical Reserve}}{\sum \text{Whole Life Annual Accrual}}$$

For each plant account, the difference between the surviving investment, adjusted for estimated net salvage, and the allocated book depreciation reserve, was divided by the composite remaining life to yield the annual depreciation expense as noted in this equation.

$$\text{Annual Depreciation Expense} = \frac{\text{Original Cost} - \text{Book Reserve} - (\text{Original Cost}) * (1 - \text{Net Salvage \%})}{\text{Composite Remaining Life}}$$

Where the net salvage percent represents future net salvage.

Within a group, the sum of the group annual depreciation expense amounts, as a percentage of the depreciable original cost investment summed, gives the annual depreciation rate as shown below:

$$\text{Annual Depreciation Rate} = \frac{\sum \text{Annual Depreciation Expense}}{\sum \text{Original Cost}}$$

These calculations are shown in Appendix B. The calculations of the theoretical depreciation reserve values and the corresponding remaining life

calculations are shown in workpapers. Book depreciation reserves were allocated from a functional level to individual accounts and the theoretical reserve computation was used to compute a composite remaining life for each account.

Life Analysis

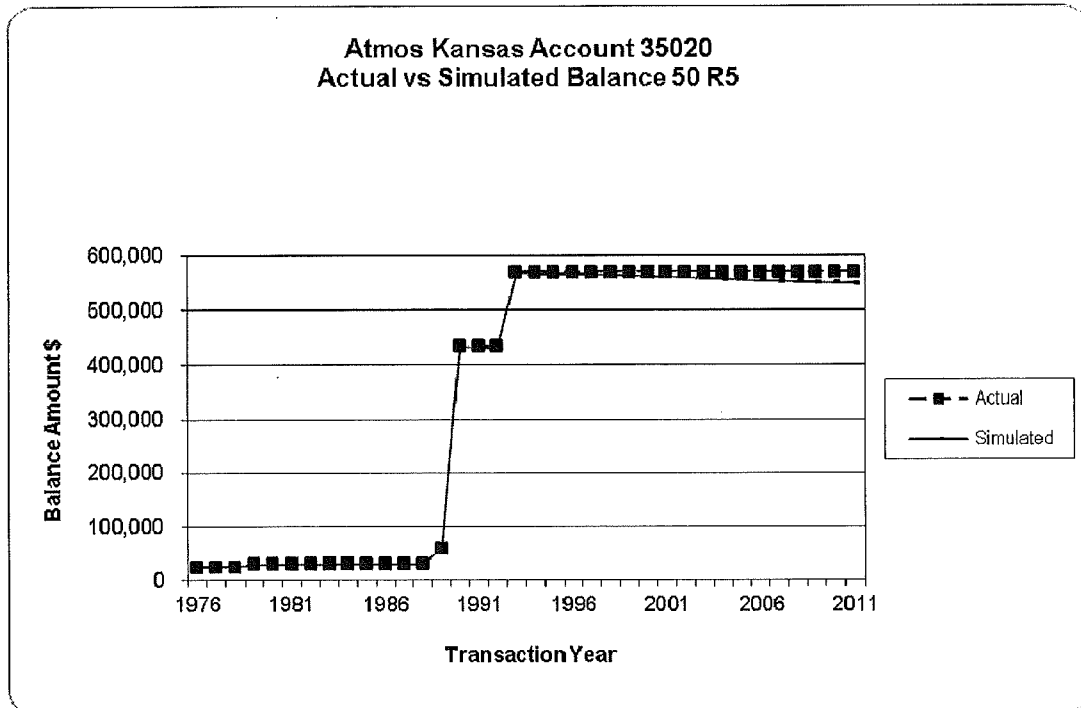
The simulated plant record method SPR semi-actuarial analysis method was applied to all accounts for Kansas. For each account, a simulated plant record method analysis was performed at intervals for the overall band and at 5-year intervals within the overall balance period. In addition to reviewing the SPR analysis for each band and account, a graphical comparison between actual and simulated balances was performed.

These results are used in conjunction with all other factors that may influence asset lives.

Storage Plant – FERC Accounts 350.20-357

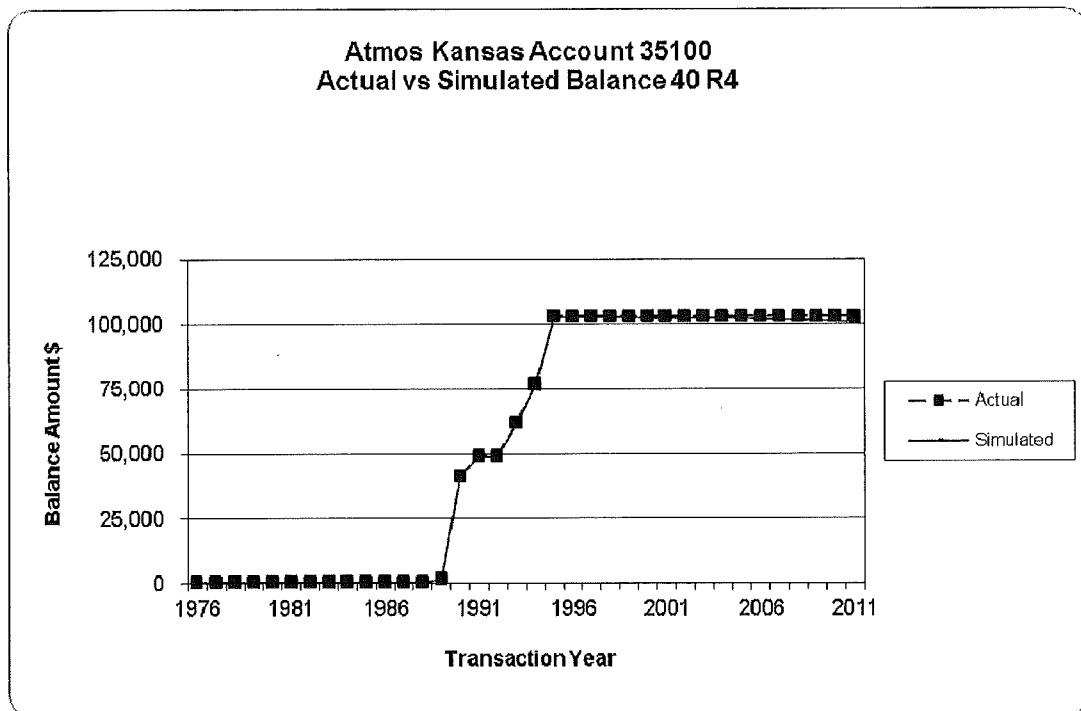
Account 350.20 Rights of Way (50 R5)

This account includes the cost of land rights located on underground storage lines and other property associated with underground gas storage operations. The account balance is under \$569 thousand. The existing life for this account is 50 R5. This study proposes retention of the existing life and curve, 50 R5. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 50 R5 curve.



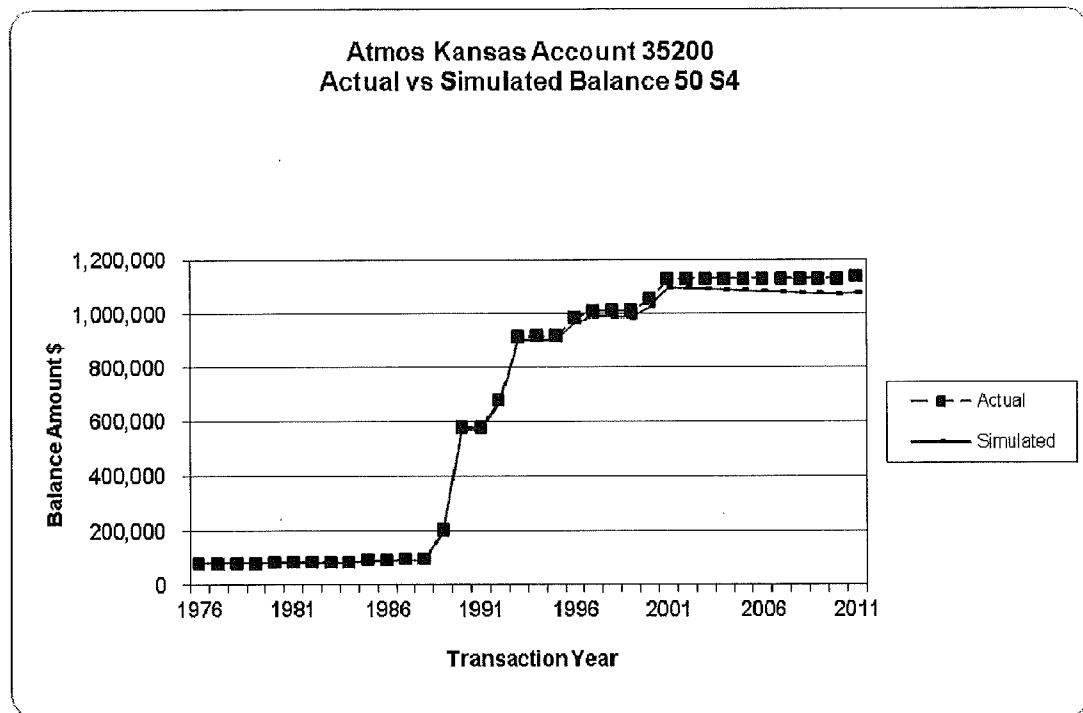
Account 351.00 Well Structures and Improvements (40 R4)

This account includes buildings, fences, regulator station and other structures and improvements used in connection with underground storage of natural gas. The balance in this account is \$103 thousand. The existing life for this account is 40 R4. While there are structure accounts within each functional group, the lives of each account are tied to the forces of retirement for that function. The life analysis indicates the average age of retirements is about 19 years. The overall life expectations for this account remain at 40 years and the study recommends retaining the R4 dispersion. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 40 R4 curve.



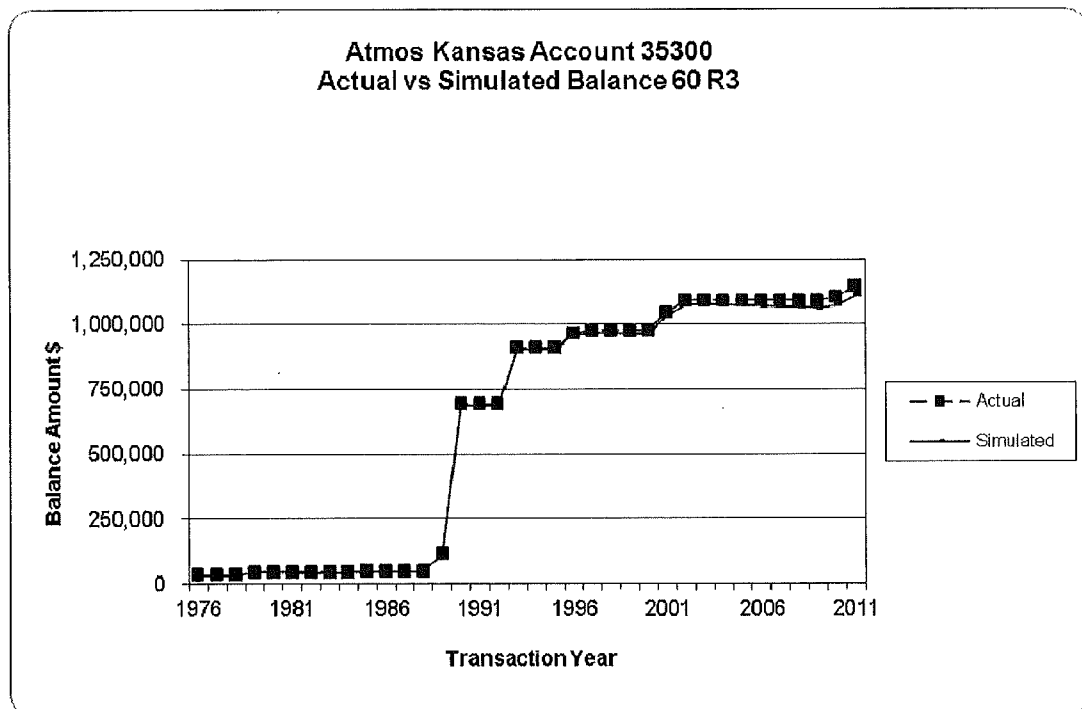
Account 352.00 Wells, Storage Leaseholds and Rights (50 S4)

This account includes the cost of drilling wells for injection and withdrawal of gas from underground storage projects, as well as storage leaseholds and rights. The balance in this account is \$1.1 million. The Company has retired wells with problems or those it no longer needs. Three such retirements have occurred. The existing life 50 S4 is retained for the approximately 50 remaining wells. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 50 S4 curve.



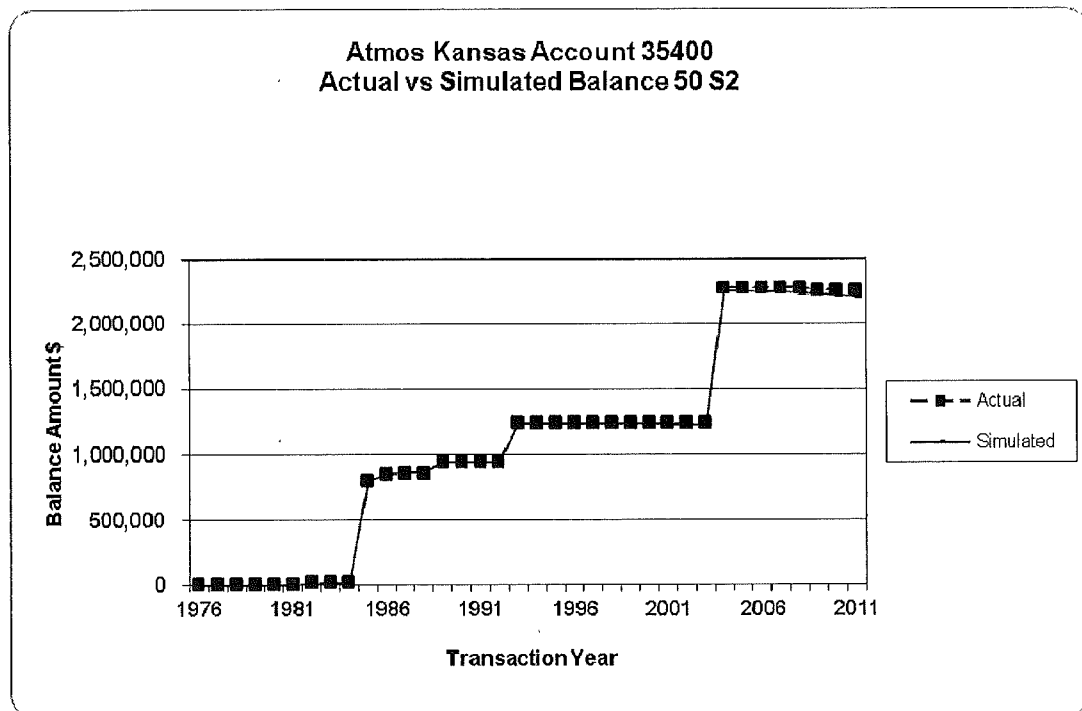
Account 353.00 Lines (60 R3)

This account includes the cost of assets used by Atmos Kansas to convey gas from the connection point with transmission or field lines to underground storage wells and from underground storage wells to the point where gas enters the transmission system. The balance in this account is \$1.1 million. The existing life for this account is 50 S2. Based on the life analysis indications, discussions on the assets and use, this study recommends increasing the life from 50 years to 60 and changing from the S2 dispersion to the R3 at this time. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 60 R3 curve.



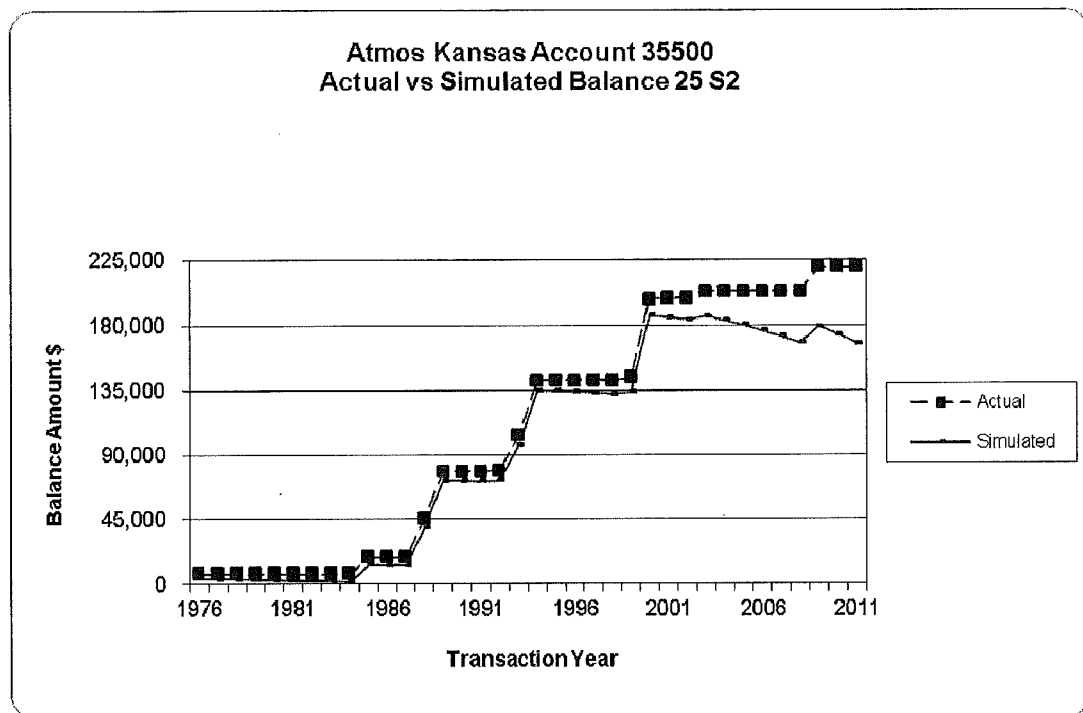
Account 354.00 Compressor Station Equipment (50 S2)

This account includes compressor station equipment used to raise the pressure of gas for delivery to underground storage or to raise the pressure of gas withdrawn from underground storage for delivery to the transmission system. The balance in this account is \$2.3 million. The existing life for this account is 25 S2. Discussions with Company personnel indicated 1 set of 2 active compressors is leased, 1 set of 3 compressors were inactive and were disconnected in 2011 with retirement expected in 2012. Other equipment, such as dehydrators and other miscellaneous equipment remain. Based on the type and use of the remaining assets, the information gleaned from interviews with the Company, and judgment this study recommends moving the life to the 50 S2. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 50 S2 curve.



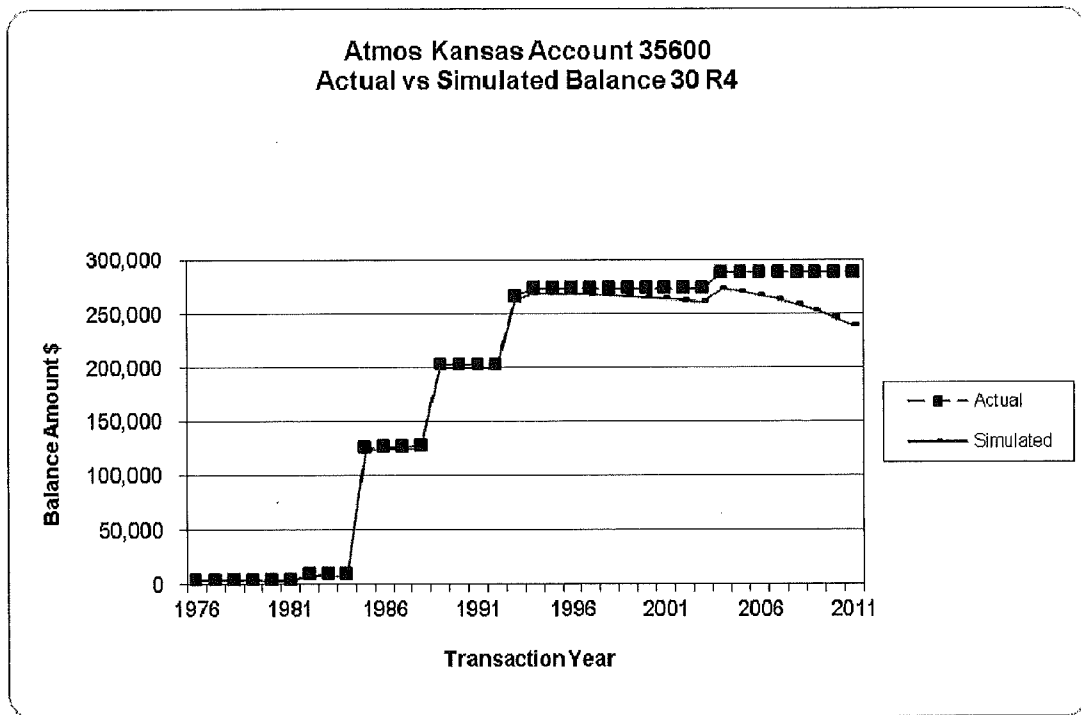
Account 355.00 M & R Station Equipment (25 S2)

This account includes equipment used to measure and regulate deliveries of gas to underground storage and withdrawals of gas from underground storage. The plant balance in this account is \$220 thousand. The existing life for this account is 25 S2. Based on judgment, the type and use of the assets, this study recommends retaining the 25 S2 at this time. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 25 S2 curve.



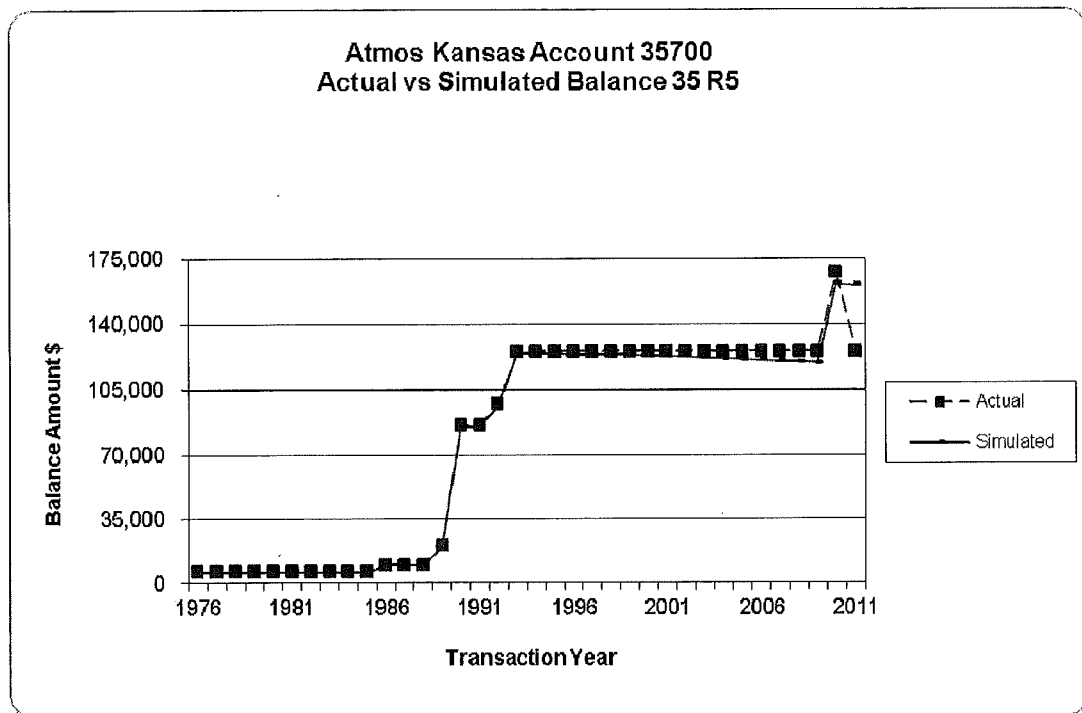
Account 356.00 Purification Equipment (30 R4)

This account includes the cost of equipment used to remove impurities from and to condition gas delivered to or removed from underground storage fields. The balance in this account is \$288 thousand. The existing life for this account is 30 R4. Based on judgment, the type and use of the assets, this study recommends retaining the 30 R4 at this time. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 30 R4 curve.



Account 357.00 Other Equipment (35 R5)

This account includes the cost of equipment used for underground storage when not assigned to other accounts within the underground storage function, such as calorimeters or odorizers. The balance in this account is \$125 thousand. The existing life for this account is 35 R5. Based on judgment, the type and use of the assets, this study recommends retaining the 35 R5 at this time. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 35 R5 curve.

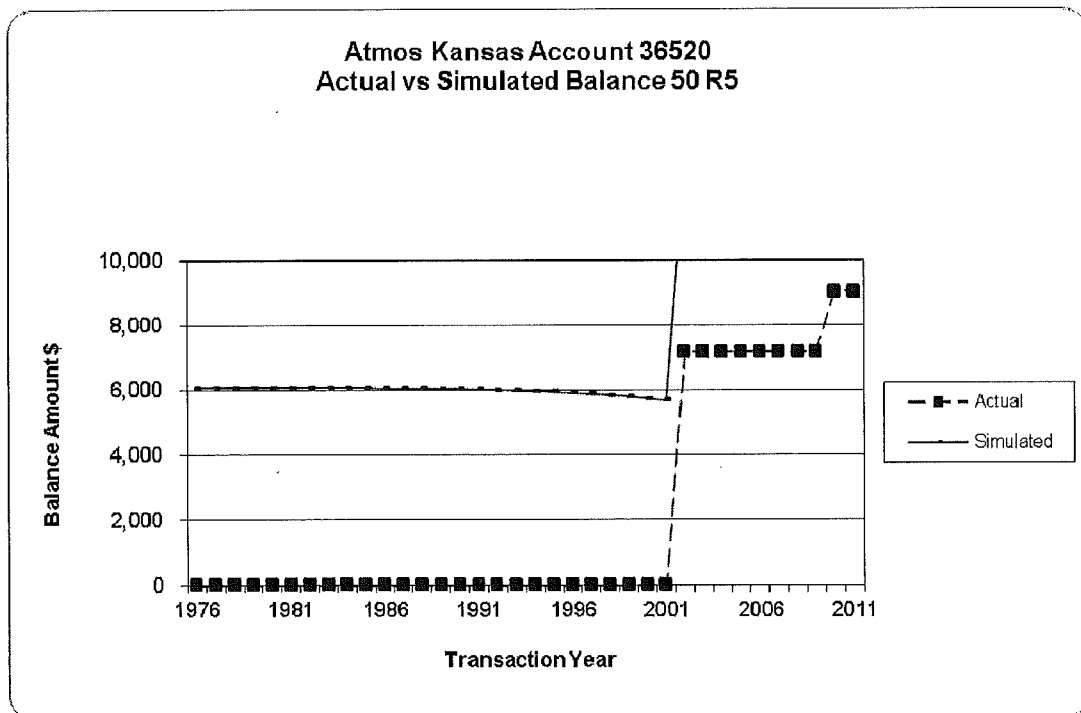


Transmission Plant – FERC Accounts 365.2-369

Kansas has a limited number of mains recorded in the transmission function.

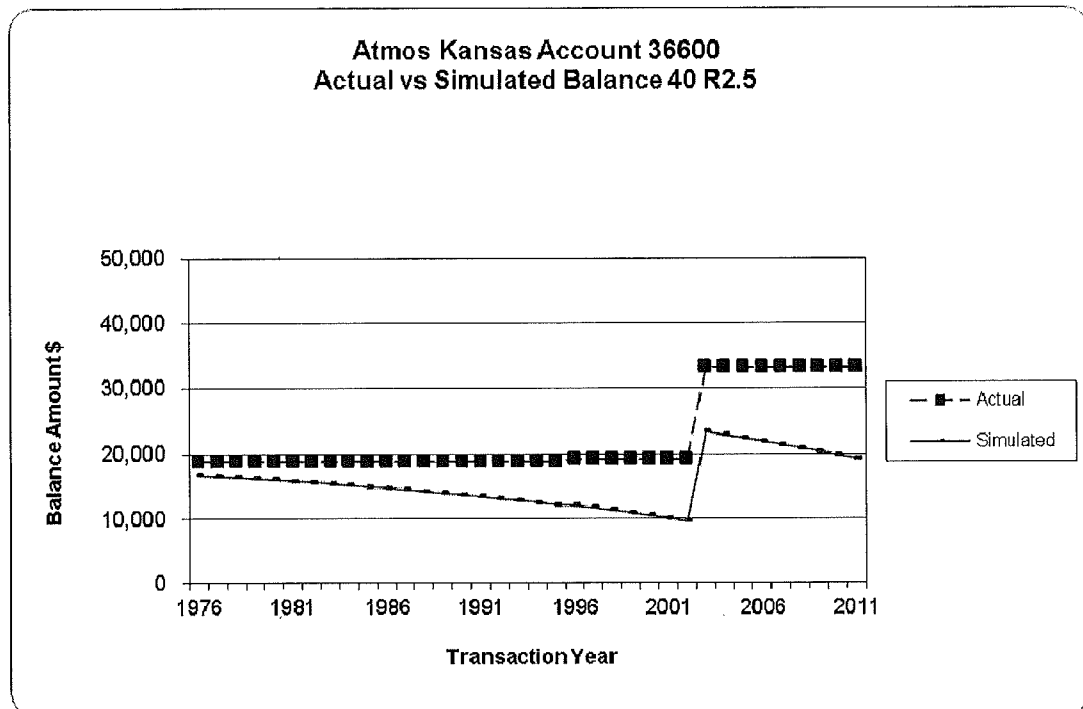
Account 365.20 Rights of Way (50 R5)

This account includes the cost of land rights used in connection with transmission operations. The plant balance in this account is \$9 thousand. The existing life is a 50 R5 and is retained. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 50 R5 curve.



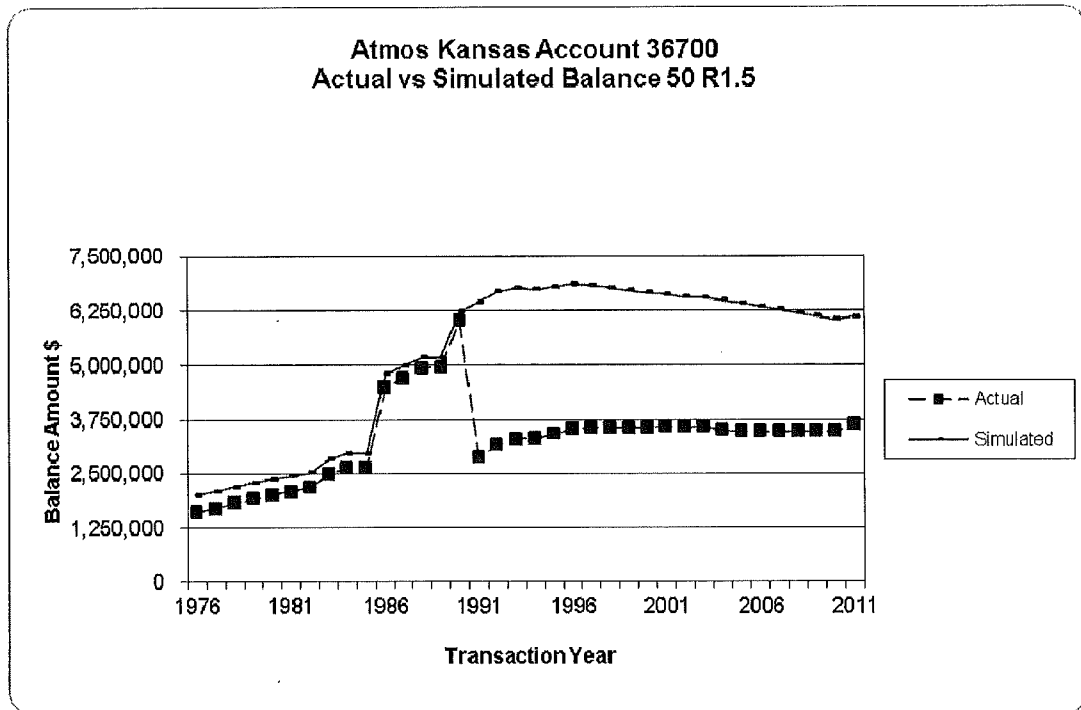
Account 366.00 Structures & Improvements (40 R2.5)

This account includes the cost of structures and improvements in connection with transmission operations. The plant balance in this account is \$33 thousand. The existing life is 40 R2.5 and is retained. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 40 R2.5 curve.



Account 367.00 Mains – Cathodic Protected and Steel (50 R1.5)

This account includes the cost of transmission system mains including excavation costs, pipe, valves, cathodic protection and other equipment. The plant balance in this account is \$3.6 million. The existing life for this account is 50 S2. Life indications in the analysis were too short to be considered representative of the type of asset in this account. Therefore, based on type and use of assets, discussions with Company personnel and judgment, this study proposes using the same life as Distribution Account 376 Mains. The life remains consistent with the existing 50 year life with a slight change in dispersion from the S2 to the R1.5 dispersion for this account. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 50 R1.5 curve.



Account 367.03 Mains Anodes (16 SQ)

This account includes the cost of anodes. There is approximately \$2 thousand that was transferred into this account and has an age less than the specified amortization period of 16 years. Due to the nature of these assets disintegrating over time with no ability to identify and report retirements, discussions with the Company and consistency with the Colorado jurisdiction the implementation of an amortization approach is reflected in this study. The segregation and parameters are new and due to amortization no comparison is provided.

Account 367.04 Mains Leak Clamps & Sleeves (12 SQ)

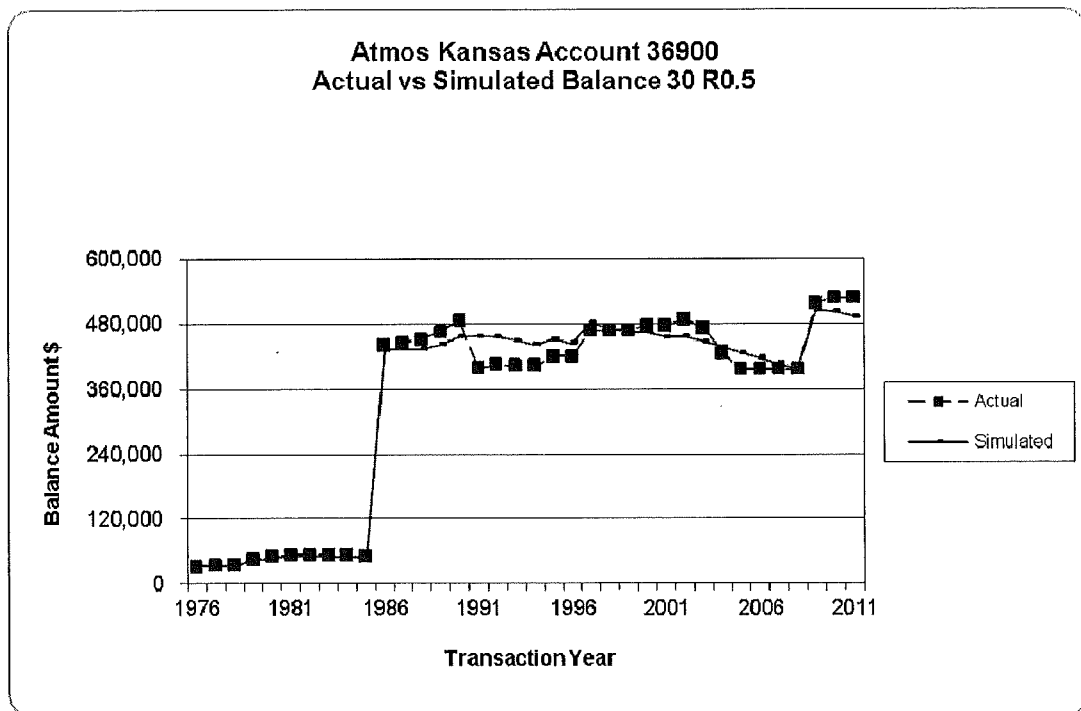
This account includes the cost of leak clamps, sleeves and weld overs used with mains. After transfer and retirement of assets with an age greater than the specified amortization period of 12 years this account has a zero balance. Consistent with the Colorado jurisdiction and discussions with Company personnel, this study recognizes and recommends amortization for this account. The amortization period is reflective of the installation of these assets during the last 25% of the expected life of mains. Based on the proposed life of mains, 50 years, these would be installed around age 38 leaving an estimated 12 years for amortization. The segregation and parameters are new and due to amortization no comparison is provided.

Account 368.00 Compressor Station Equipment (20 SQ)

This account includes the cost of transmission compressor station equipment. The balance in this account is approximately \$31 thousand. The existing life for this account is 20 SQ and is retained in this study. No comparison is provided.

Account 369.00 M&R Station Equipment (30 R0.5)

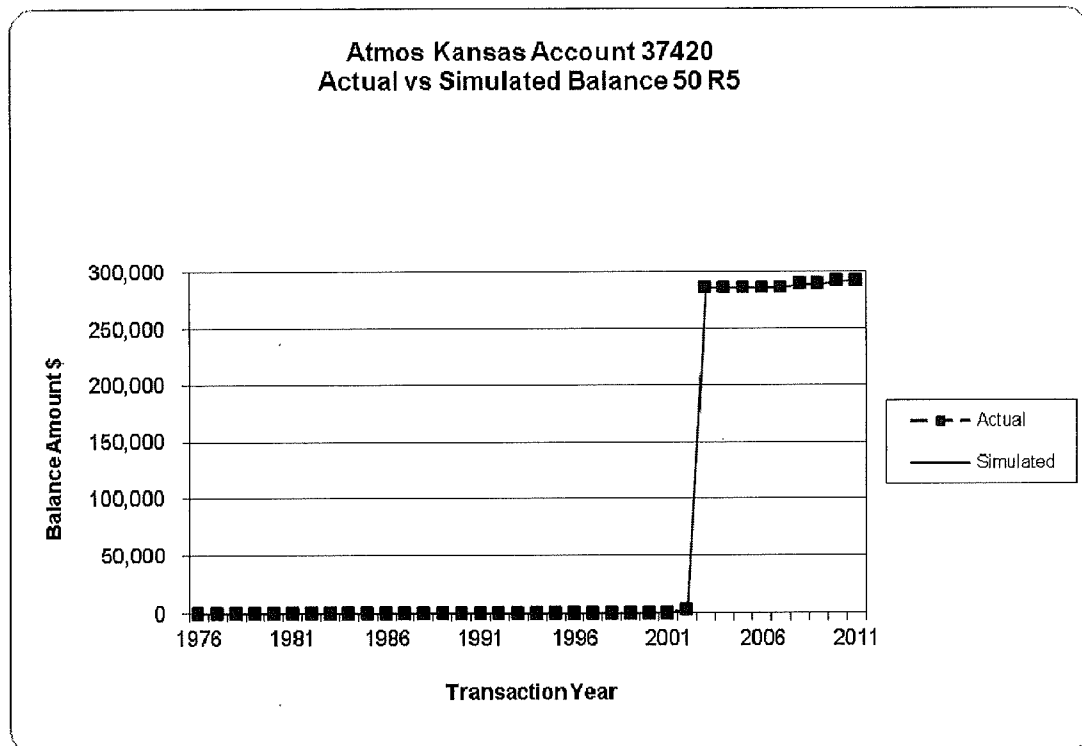
This account includes the costs of meters, gauges, and other equipment used to measure or regulate gas in connection with transmission city gate operations. The plant balance in this account is \$525 thousand. The existing life for this account is 30 R0.5. The average age of the surviving assets is 25 years. Based on the analysis indications, type of assets, use, and judgment this study recommends retaining the 30 R0.5. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 30 R0.5 curve.



Distribution Plant – FERC Accounts 374.02-387

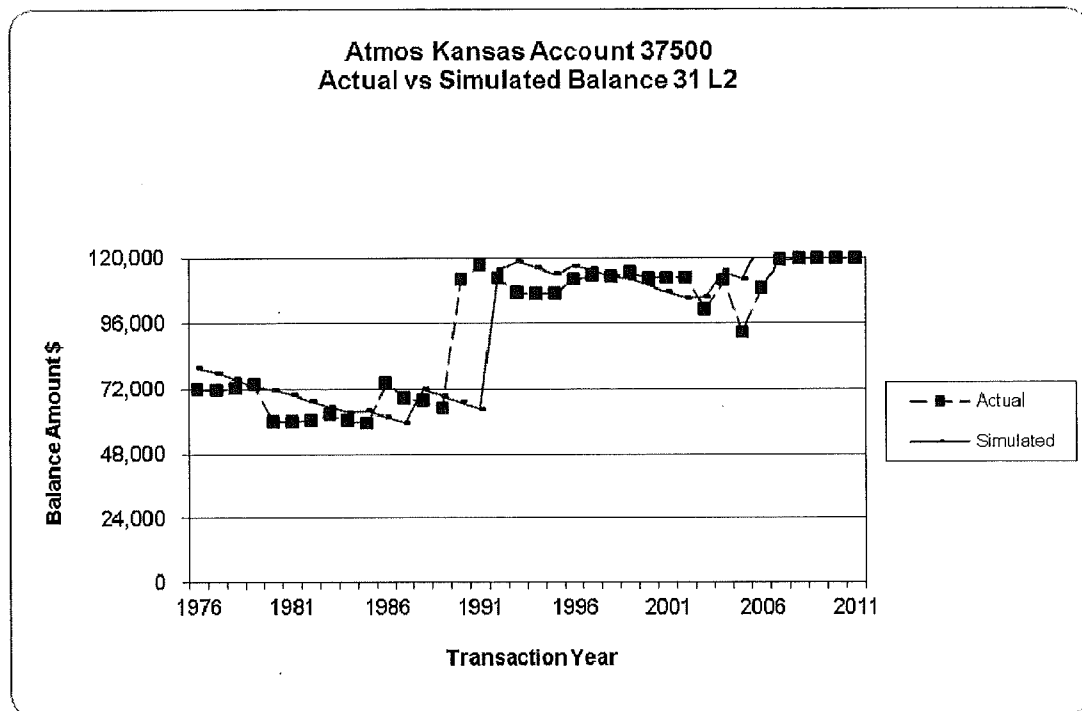
Account 374.02 Land Rights (50 R5)

This account includes the cost of land rights used in connection with distribution operations. There is approximately \$293 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 50 R5. These assets are linked to Account 376. This study recommends retention of the existing 50 R5 dispersion for this account. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 50 R5 curve.



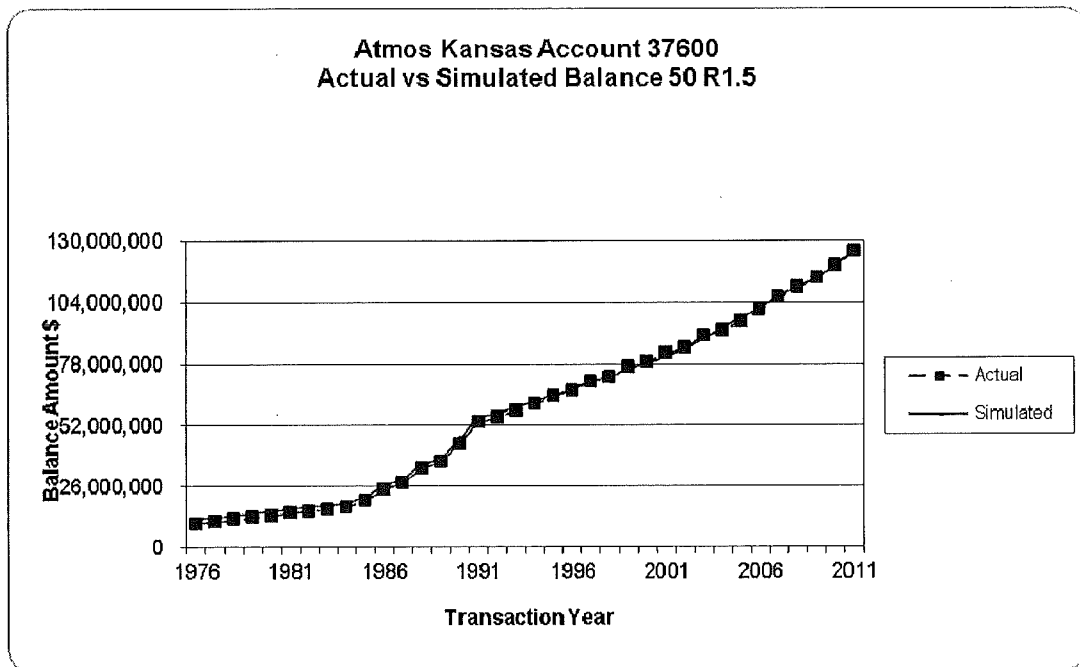
Account 375.00 Structures and Improvements (31 L2)

This account includes the cost of buildings, border station and regulating station structures, fences, and other miscellaneous related assets used in connection with distribution operations. There is approximately \$119 thousand in this account. The existing life was 35 L2. The average age of survivors is approximately 13 year. The CI is low but life analysis clear indications of a shorter life. This study recommends decreasing the life slightly from 35 to 31 years and retaining the L2 dispersion. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 31 L2 curve.



Account 376.00 Mains - Cathodic Protected, Steel and Plastic (50 R1.5)

This account includes the cost of all mains - cathodic protected, steel and plastic - which operate at high, medium and low pressure. There is approximately \$115.9 million in this account. The existing life is 50 years with an S2 dispersion. All mains are now protected, but that has not always been the case. Most new pipe installed is plastic unless pressure or continuity of protected pipe dictates otherwise. Some "Marlex" plastic pipe has been replaced at 40 years. Above ground pipe in Class 2 and 3 areas have to be replaced or are planned to be replaced. This has been a focus for the past few years which has influenced the existing and proposed 50 year life. No cast iron pipe remains on the system. Current study indications and discussions support retention of the 50 year life but changing from the S2 to an R1.5 dispersion. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 50 R1.5 curve.



Account 376.03 Mains - Anodes (16 SQ)

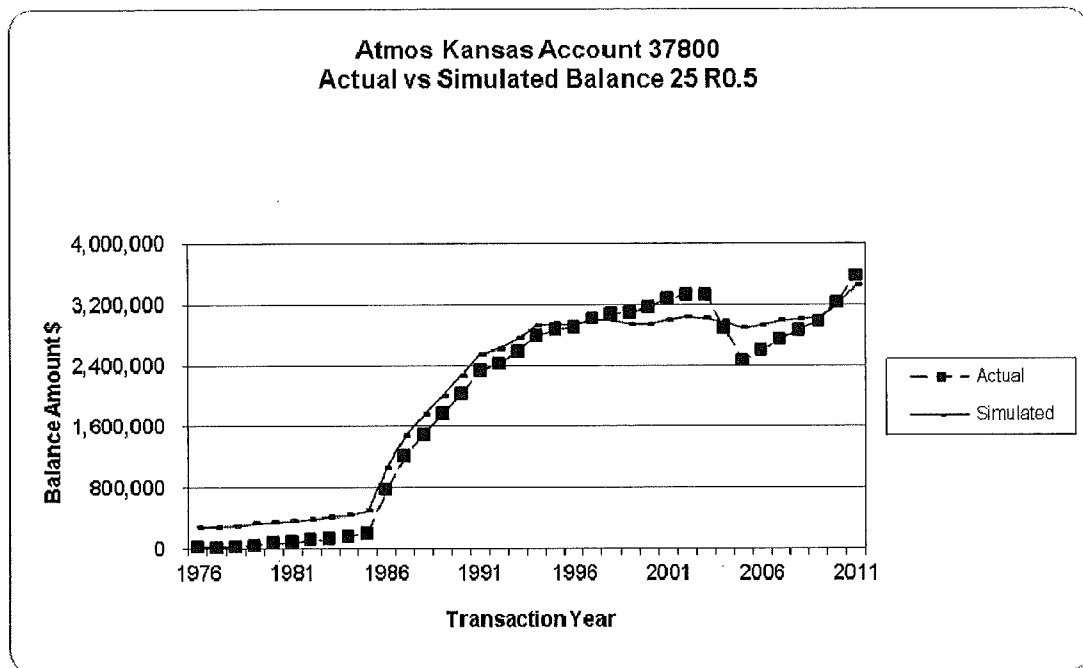
This account includes the cost of anodes. There is approximately \$3.0 million that was transferred into this account and has an age less than the specified amortization period of 16 years. Due to the nature of these assets disintegrating over time with no ability to identify and report retirements, discussions with the Company and consistency with the Colorado jurisdiction the implementation of an amortization approach is reflected in this study. The segregation and parameters are new and due to amortization no comparison is provided.

Account 376.04 Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves (12 SQ)

This account includes the cost of leak clamps, sleeves and weld overs used with mains. There is approximately \$5.6 million that was transferred into this account and has an age less than the specified amortization period of 12 years. This amortization approach is being implemented to facilitate the accurate retirement of these property units. As discussed above, this decision was a result of discussions with Company personnel and consistency with the Colorado jurisdiction. The amortization period is reflective to the installation of these assets during the last 25% of the life of mains. Based on the study life of mains at 50 years, these would be installed around age 38 leaving an estimated 12 years for recovery. The segregation and parameters are new and due to amortization no comparison is provided.

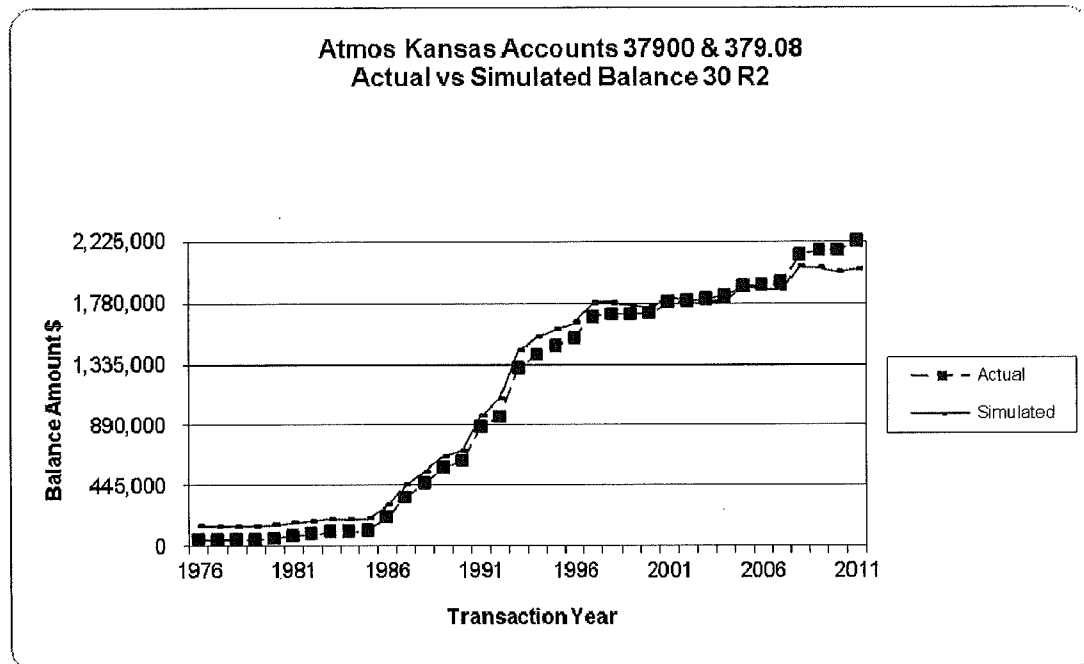
Account 378.00 M&R Station Equipment (25 R0.5)

This account consists of various measuring equipment, regulator station and valves used in distribution operations. There is approximately \$3.6 million of investment in this account. The existing life is 25 years with an S2 dispersion. Based on type of assets, expectations, and history this study recommends retaining the 25 year life but changing from the S2 to an R0.5 dispersion. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 25 R0.5 curve.



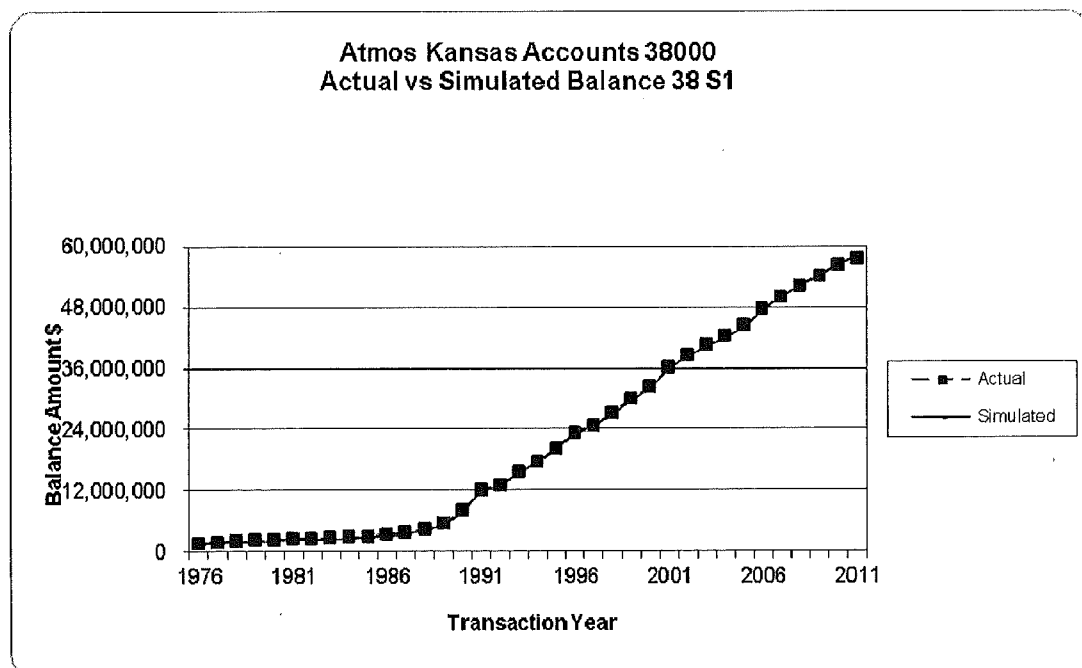
Account 379.00 & 379.08 M&R – City Gate Equipment (30 R2)

This account includes the cost of related equipment used in measuring and regulating gas at the city gate. There is approximately \$2.2 million in plant in these accounts. The existing life is 30 years with an R1 dispersion. Analysis results have low CI but indicate higher-moded curves. This study recommends retention of the 30 year life, but changing to a higher-moded curve from the R1 to R2 for this account. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 30 R2 curve.



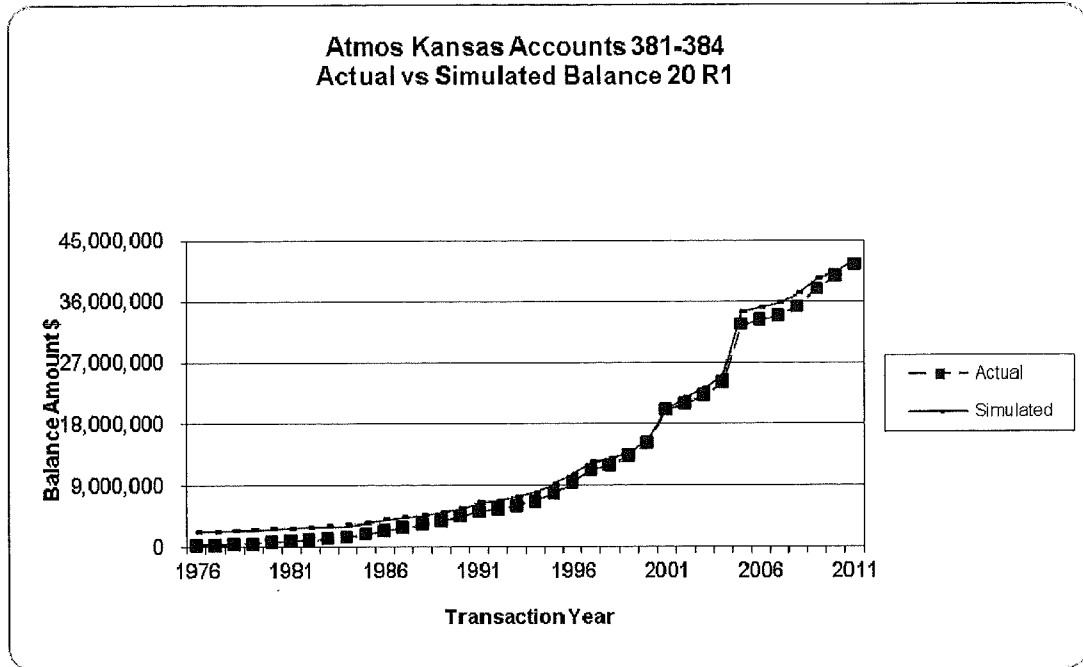
Account 380.00 Services (38 S1)

This account consists of all types of services used in distribution operations. There is approximately \$57.6 million of investment in this account. The existing life is 40 years with an S1 dispersion. A service is from the meter to the house, which the Company is responsible for maintaining. However, this has not always been the case. When a yard line has a leak that was not installed by the Company, it will be replaced with a short service to meter and yard line with service from main to meter (with the meter being moved to the house). Past practice may not have always retired the loop at same time (but should have) and is expected to occur consistently going forward. Currently, in nearly all cases, the Company will physically replace loop when replacing the service. Based on the life analysis, discussions with Company personnel on past, present and future practices related to services, this study recommends decreasing the life to 38 years and retaining the S1 dispersion at this time. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 38 S1 curve.



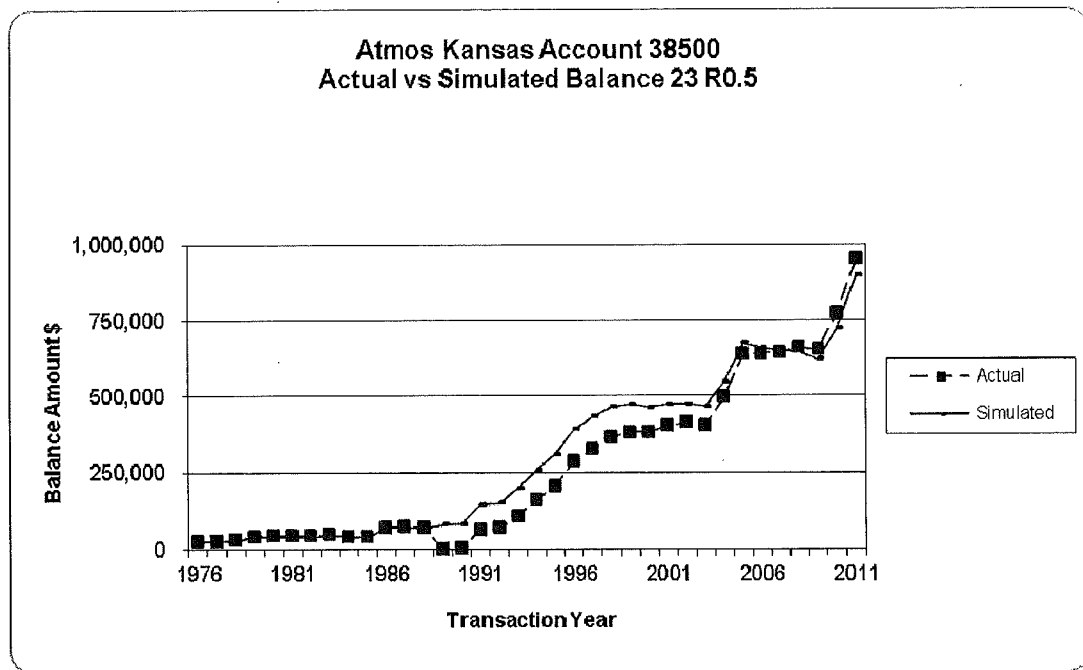
Account 381.00-384.00 Meters, House Regulators, & Installations (20 R1)

These accounts include the cost of meters, meter installations and house regulators and are combined for purposes of this study. Combined there is a balance of \$41.4 million in these accounts. The existing lives are 20 R0.5, 20 R0.5, 30 R0.5, and 30 S5, respectively. The Company plans to process retirements of meters, their capitalized meter installation cost and the associated house regulator and installation costs at the same time. As a result, these accounts were combined for the life analysis. Company personnel indicated that in the past (10-12 years ago), there was a 10 year change-out plan for meters. Current practice is to pull the meter if over 10 years old (between ages of 10-15 years), test and reinstall. Meters that are 15 years and over will be retired when pulled. There is currently no program to locate and retire older meters. Company expects meters could have a life of 20-25 years if not pulled for testing, and maybe a few would reach 30 years. However, many will be pulled for testing and retired that are 15 to 20 years old. Based on the combined life analysis, current practices and plans, this study recommends retaining the 20 year meter life and moving to the R1 dispersion for all accounts. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 20 R1 curve.



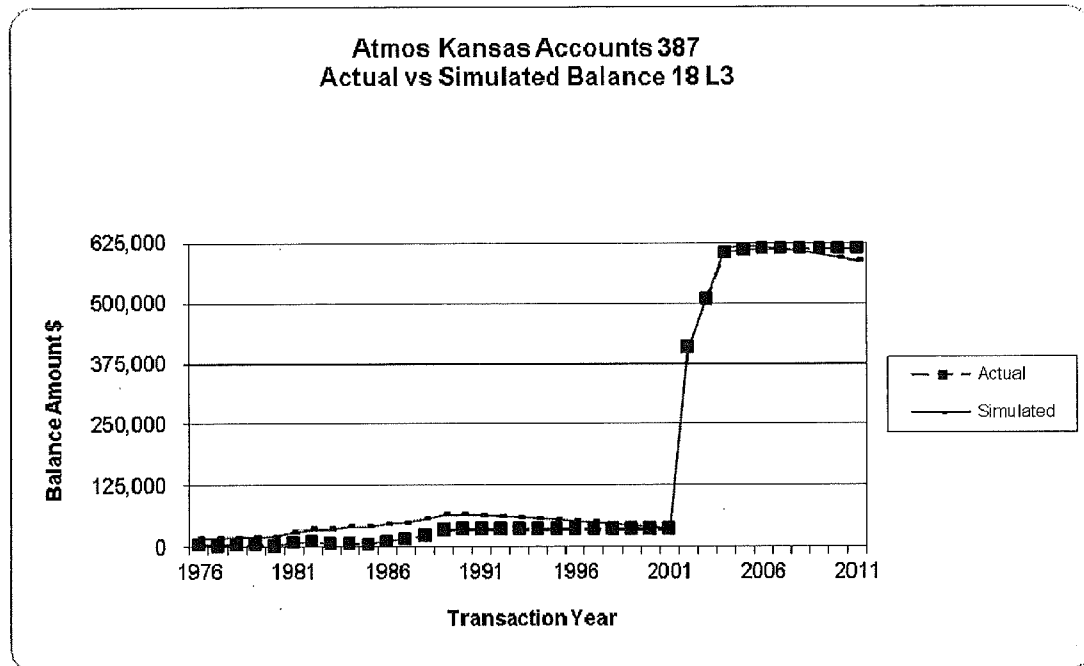
Account 385.00 Industrial M&R Equipment (23 R0.5)

This account includes the cost of meters, regulator installations, regulator stations, valves and pressure recorders for industrial customers. There is approximately \$951 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 25 R0.5. Life analysis results in low CI but a lower life and low-moded dispersion pattern are indicated. Based on type and use of assets, life analysis shortest band indications, and judgment, this study recommends decreasing the life slightly to 23 years and retaining the low-moded R0.5 dispersion. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 23 R0.5 curve.



Account 387.00 Other Equipment (18 L3)

This account includes the cost of pipe locators, leak detectors, flame ionization and other miscellaneous equipment. There is approximately \$614 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 20 year life with the L3 dispersion. Life analysis results in low CI but indicates a shorter life. Based on the life analysis shortest band, type of assets, and judgment this study recommends decreasing the life slightly to 18 years and retaining the L3 dispersion at this time. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 18 L3 curve.



General Plant – FERC Accounts 390-399.08

Depreciated Accounts 390, 392 and 396

Account 390.00 Structures and Improvements (40 R2)

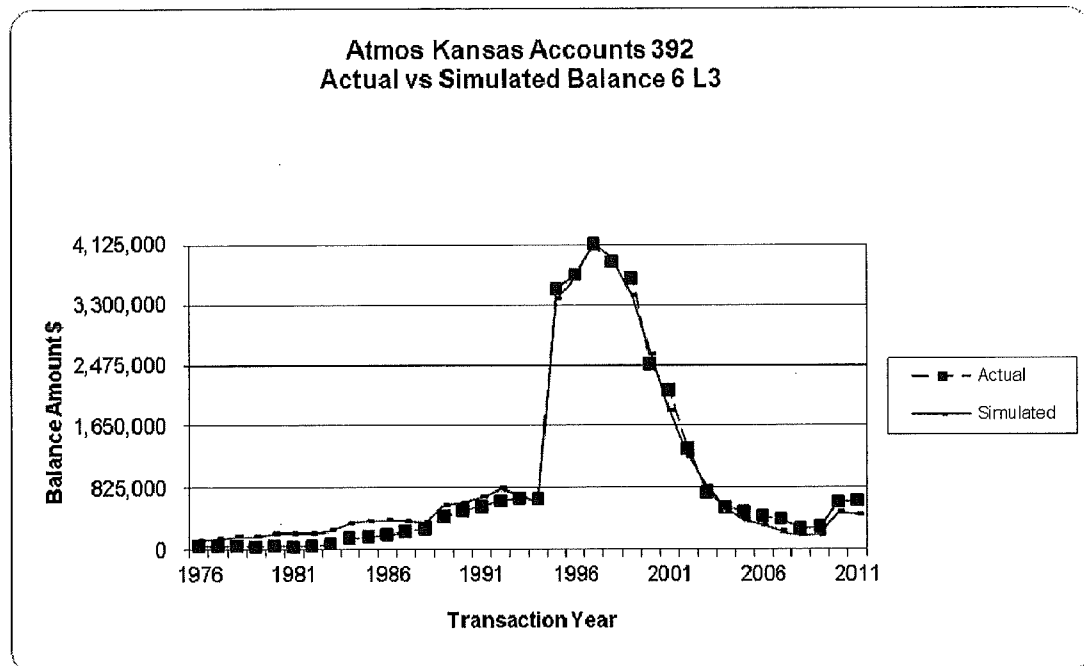
This account includes the cost of buildings, roof, heating/cooling equipment, carpet, other structures and improvements. There is approximately \$1.8 million in this account. The current life is a 30 R2. Life analysis results in low CI and shorter life indications. However, discussions with Company personnel indicate that the existing 30 year life is too low for the district offices. Based on the analysis, mix of assets, and discussions with Company personnel this study recommends segregating the recommendations related to Account 390 and increasing the life from 30 to 40 years, but retaining the R2 dispersion for this account. As a result of the segregation for life parameters and rate calculations, a comparison of actual versus simulated balances is not provided.

Account 390.03, 390.04, and 390.09 Improvements, Air Conditioning, and Leasehold Improvements (30 R2)

This account includes the cost of roofs, foundation, air conditioning equipment and leasehold improvements such as carpet, lighting and other structures and improvements. There is approximately \$49 thousand in this account. The current life is a 30 R2. This study recommends retention of the existing 30 R2 for the assets in these accounts. Due to the segregation and different life parameter recommendations no comparison is provided.

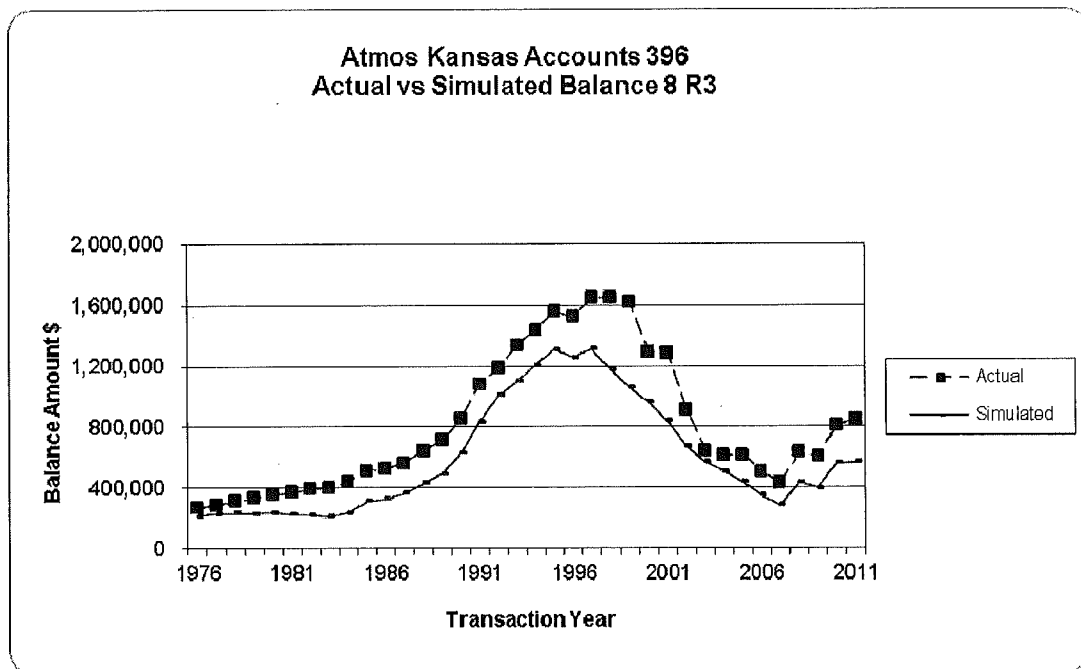
Account 392.00 Transportation Equipment (6 L3)

This account consists of various types of transportation equipment such as cars, trucks, tractor, and trailers. There is approximately \$645 thousand in this account. Discussions with Company personnel indicated most equipment is currently leased. Expectations for smaller vehicles would be around 5 years and larger trucks, tractors and trailers are 10-20 years depending on the asset. The life analysis based on the current mix of assets support retention of the existing 6 L3. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 6 L3 curve.



Account 396.00 Power Operated, Ditchers, Backhoes & Welders (8 R3)

This account consists of all power operated equipment including generators, ditchers, backhoes, welders, trailers, tamper/compactors, boring equipment, air compressors and other miscellaneous power equipment. There is approximately \$749 thousand remaining to be depreciated for these accounts. Account 396.03 – Ditchers, which has approximately \$101 thousand is considered fully depreciated. The current life is 10 years with an L4 dispersion. Based on the analysis, type of equipment and discussions with Company personnel, this study recommends decreasing the life to 8 years and moving to the R3 dispersion. A comparison of actual versus simulated balances is shown below for the 8 R3 curve.



Amortized Accounts 391, 393-395, 397-399.08

This study recommends and implements General Plant Amortization as discussed in the report previously. In compliance with FERC AR 15 requirements, assets totaling \$648,650 were determined to exceed the amortization life and were considered retired in the study. The following accounts will utilize a life reflective of the specific account experience and expectations with the SQ dispersion. No graph is provided.

Account 391.00 Office Furniture, Equipment and Machines (15 SQ)

This account consists of miscellaneous office furniture such as desks, chairs, filing cabinets, tables, copiers, typewriters, and vacuums used for general utility service. There is approximately \$429 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 15 R5. Based on the analysis, type and use of assets, this study recommends retention of the 15 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 393.00 Stores Equipment (28 SQ)

This account consists primarily of forklift and some storage shelving, and miscellaneous equipment used for general utility service. There is approximately \$1 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 28 R0.5 dispersion. The Company has moved to a consignment approach to its stores operations. Based on this change in process and types of surviving assets, this study recommends retaining the existing life for the remaining assets but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 394.00 Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment (15 SQ)

This account consists of various tools used in the shop and garages such as boring equipment, leak detectors, pipe locators, fusion, tapping, and plugging equipment. There is approximately \$2.5 million in this account. The existing life is a 15 L5. This study recommends retaining the 15 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 395.00 Laboratory Equipment (15 SQ)

This account consists of all types of laboratory equipment. There is approximately \$14 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 20 S6. Based on the analysis, type of assets and judgment, this study recommends decreasing the life to 15 years and moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Accounts 397.00 Communication Equipment (All) (12 SQ)

This account consists of all communication equipment including mobile and fixed radio systems along with telephone, telemetering and other miscellaneous communication equipment. Combining all accounts there is approximately \$425 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 12 S6. Based on the type of equipment, future expectations and judgment, this study recommends retention of the 12 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 398.00 Miscellaneous Equipment (15 SQ)

This account consists of miscellaneous equipment used in general utility service. There is approximately \$8 thousand in this account. The existing life is a 15 R1. Based on the analysis, type of assets, expectations and judgment, this study recommends retaining the life of 15 years but moving to the SQ dispersion

consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.00 Other Tangible Property (7 SQ)

This account consists of other tangible property used in general utility service. Currently there is no balance in this account. However, if assets are added in the future, the study recommends moving from the existing 8 S5 dispersion to the 7 SQ dispersion, consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.01 Server Hardware (7 SQ)

This account consists of server hardware computer equipment. There is approximately \$25 thousand in this account. The existing life is an 8 S5. This study recommends moving to a 7 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.02 Server Software (7 SQ)

This account consists of server software. There is approximately \$64 thousand in this account. The existing life is an 8 S5. This study recommends moving to a 7 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.03 – Network Hardware (7 SQ)

This account consists of network hardware computer equipment. There is approximately \$180 thousand in this account. The existing life is an 8 S5. This study recommends moving to a 7 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.05 – Mainframe Hardware (7 SQ)

This account consists of computer mainframe hardware. Currently there is no balance in this account. However, should assets be added in the future, the study recommends moving from the existing 8 S5 to the 7 SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.06 – PC Hardware (4 SQ)

This account consists of personal computer hardware, laptops, printers, monitors, and projectors. There is approximately \$588 thousand in this account. The existing life is an 8 S5. This study recommends moving to a 4 year life with an SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.07 PC Software (4 SQ)

This account consists of software for personal computers. There is approximately \$84 thousand in this account. The existing life is an 8 S5. This study recommends moving to a 4 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Account 399.08 Application Software (7 SQ)

This account consists of large application software. There is approximately \$213 thousand in this account. The existing life is an 8 S5. This study recommends moving to a 7 year life but moving to the SQ dispersion consistent with the implementation and future application of General Plant Amortization. No graph is provided.

Salvage Analysis

When a capital asset is retired, physically removed from service and finally disposed of, terminal retirement is said to have occurred. The residual value of a terminal retirement is called gross salvage. Net salvage is the difference between the gross salvage (what the asset was sold for) and the removal cost (cost to remove and dispose of the asset). Salvage and removal cost percentages are calculated by dividing the current cost of salvage or removal by the original installed cost of the asset. Some plant assets can experience significant negative removal cost percentages due to the timing of the original addition versus the retirement. For example, a Distribution asset in FERC Account 376 Steel Mains with a current installed cost of \$500 (2011) would have had an installed cost of \$38⁴ in 1961. A removal cost of \$50 for the asset calculated (incorrectly) on current installed cost would only have a negative 10 percent removal cost (\$50/\$500). However, a correct removal cost calculation would show a negative 131.5 percent removal cost for that asset (\$50/\$38). Inflation from the time of installation of the asset until the time of its removal must be taken into account in the calculation of the removal cost percentage because the depreciation rate, which includes the removal cost percentage, will be applied to the original installed cost of assets.

The net salvage analysis uses the history of the individual accounts to estimate the future net salvage that Kansas can expect in its operations. As a result, the analysis not only looks at the historical experience but also takes into account recent and expected changes in operations that could reasonably lead to different future expectations for net salvage than were experienced in the past. Generally, recent experience is more heavily weighted in making net salvage recommendations than experience older than 10 years.

Salvage Characteristics

For each account, data for retirements, gross salvage, and cost of removal

⁴ Using the Handy-Whitman Bulletin No. 174, G-3, line 44, \$38 = \$500 x 57/ 743,

was derived from 1992-2011. Moving averages, which remove timing differences between retirement and salvage and removal cost, were analyzed over periods varying from one to 19 years, which were evaluated in making the net salvage recommendations for the study. However, for purposes of printing in this report, we have limited it to a period of 10 years in Appendix D. A discussion for each account provides the recommended net salvage factor, the existing net salvage factor if known, and any specific considerations given to support the recommendations.

Underground Storage

Account 350.20 Rights of Way (0%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to the cost of rights of way located on underground storage lines and other property associated with underground gas storage operations. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. No net salvage is anticipated for this account. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 351.00 Structures and Improvements (0%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to structures and improvements used in connection with underground storage of natural gas. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. There have been no retirements, salvage or cost of removal. Therefore, there is no basis to change from the existing 0 percent net salvage at this time for this account.

Account 352.00 Wells, Storage Leaseholds & Rights (-20%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to the cost of retiring wells from underground storage and associated leasehold and rights. The existing net salvage is negative 100 percent. Based on the experience of the three wells that have been retired, the cost to close the wells by filling with cement is \$4 thousand each. Some salvage was realized for the sale of the storage fields but not

likely to reoccur. Based on 50 wells and Company cost estimate of \$4 thousand per well, this study recommends moving to a negative 20 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 353.00 Lines (-25%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to the assets used to convey gas from the connection point with transmission or field lines to underground storage wells and from underground storage wells to the point where gas enters the transmission system. The existing net salvage is negative 25 percent and is retained.

Account 354.00 Compressor Station Equipment (0%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to compressor station equipment used to raise the pressure of gas for delivery to underground storage or to raise the pressure of gas withdrawn from underground storage for delivery to the transmission system. The existing net salvage is negative 5 percent. Some salvage is recorded due to the sale of compressors, due to the Company's move to leasing no salvage or cost of removal is expected so this study recommends 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 355.00 M&R Equipment (0%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to equipment used to measure and regulate deliveries of gas to underground storage and withdrawals of gas from underground storage. The existing net salvage is negative 5 percent. Only one retirement and no salvage or cost of removal recorded in the past 19 years evaluated in the study. Therefore, this study recommends moving to 0 percent net salvage for this account at this time.

Account 356.00 Purification Equipment (0%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to the cost of equipment used to remove impurities from and the conditioning of gas delivered to or removed from underground storage fields. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. There has been no retirement, salvage or cost of removal activity. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 357.00 Other Equipment (0%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost related to the cost of equipment used for underground storage when not assigned to other accounts within the underground storage function such as calorimeters or odorizers. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. There has been no retirement, salvage or cost of removal activity. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Transmission**Account 365.20 Rights of Way (0%)**

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost for the cost of land rights used in connection with transmission operations. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. No retirements, salvage or cost of removal have been recorded and none is expected. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 366.00 Structures & Improvements (-10%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost for the cost of structures and improvements used in conjunction with transmission operations, such as buildings, fences, or other structures. Retirement, salvage and cost of removal activity analysis from 2002, 2004 and 2005 suggest cost of removal does occur and will exceed salvage. Based on the overall experience, this study recommends retention of the existing negative 10 percent net salvage.

Account 367.00 Mains - Cathodic Protected & Steel (-12%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost for the cost of all transmission system mains including excavation costs, pipe, valves, and other equipment. The existing net salvage is negative 15 percent. Cost of removal recorded in 2008 impacts overall indications and not indicative of expectations going forward. Based on the 5-10 averages prior to 2008 and discussions with Company, this study recommends moving to a negative 12 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 368.00 Compressor Station Equipment (-10%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost for the cost of transmission compressor station equipment such as boiler plant, compressed air equipment, electric power system equipment, fire fighting equipment and gas lines and equipment. The existing net salvage is negative 10 percent. Based on the most recent 5-10 year averages, this study recommends retention of the existing negative 10 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 367.03 Mains Anodes and 367.04 Leak Clamps & Sleeves (0%)

This account consists of any salvage and removal cost related to anodes and leak clamps and sleeves. These two accounts were established in this study to facilitate the retirement of these assets and for consistency with the Company's Colorado Division. Due to the amortization process being implemented and the manner in which these assets are handled at the end of life, no salvage or cost of removal is reflected. The study recommendation is a 0 percent net salvage.

Account 369.00 M&R Equipment (-20%)

This account includes any gross salvage or removal cost for the costs of meters, gauges, and other equipment used to measure or regulate gas in connection with transmission operations. The existing net salvage is negative 20

percent. Based on the analysis, the retirement, salvage and cost of removal activity recorded in 2003-2005 support the existing negative 20 percent net salvage. This study recommends no change at this time.

Distribution Plant – FERC Accounts 374.02-387

Account 374.02 Rights of Way (0%)

This account includes any salvage and removal cost related to rights of way used in connection with distribution operations. Some cost of removal was recorded due to the disposal of gathering plant right of way assets but no other cost of removal or salvage has been recorded nor expected. This study recommends retention of the 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 375.00 Structures and Improvements (-5%)

This account consists of any salvage and removal cost related to buildings, border station and regulating station structures, fences, and other miscellaneous related assets used in connection with distribution operations. Some salvage could be realized but will be minimal. Cost of removal is more likely to occur and expected to exceed any salvage. When retirements occur, analysis and discussions with Company personnel indicate the existing negative 5 percent is reasonable. This study recommends retention of the negative 5 percent net salvage for this account at this time.

Account 376.00 Mains Cathodic Protected; 376.01 Mains Steel; and 376.02 Mains Plastic (- 25%)

This account consists of any salvage and removal cost related to all types of distribution mains, cathodic protection and other related assets. The combined analysis indicates a 10 year average of negative 29 percent. Rolling averages are generally in the range of a negative 20 and negative 30 percent.

Timing differences in recording of salvage and cost of removal and related retirements are not unusual in the industry and can be seen in the analysis. Based on the rolling average range in the 10 year analysis and the fact the existing net salvage factor falls within this range we recommend retaining the existing negative 25 percent net salvage at this time.

Account 376.03 Mains Anodes and 376.04 Leak Clamps & Sleeves (0%)

This account consists of any salvage and removal cost related to anodes and leak clamps and sleeves. These two accounts were established in this study to facilitate the retirement of these assets. Due to the amortization process being implemented and the manner in which these assets are handled at the end of life, no salvage or cost of removal is reflected. The study recommendation is a 0 percent net salvage.

Account 378.00 Measuring & Regulating Station Equipment (-5%)

This account includes any salvage and removal cost related to measuring equipment, regulator station and valves used in distribution operations. The existing net salvage is negative 5 percent. The analysis is being driven by the cost of removal activity recorded in only 3 years (2004; 2008; 2010), but primarily from 2004. The prior study evaluated and discounted this impact making the recommendation and the existing net salvage a negative 5 percent. Cost of removal activity recorded in 2008 and 2010 relative to the retirements are impacting the overall results to be higher than what would typically be seen or expected for this account. Timing differences in recording of salvage and cost of removal and related retirements are not unusual in the industry and can be seen in the analysis. Based on the overall indications in the analysis tempered by judgment, this study recommends limiting the negative net salvage and retaining the existing negative 5 percent.

Account 379.00 Measuring & Regulating – City Gate (-5%)

This account includes any salvage and removal cost related to meters used in measuring and regulating gas at the city gate. Some retirements with cost of removal have been recorded. Rolling averages for the 4-6 year bands produce a range of negative 16 to 23 percent net salvage. Timing differences in recording of salvage and cost of removal and related retirements are not unusual in the industry and can be seen in the analysis. Based on the indications in the analysis, expectations and similarity to Account 378, tempered by judgment, this study recommends a change from the existing 0 percent to a negative 5 percent net salvage factor at this time.

Account 380.00 Services (- 65%)

This account includes any salvage and removal cost related to all types of services related to distribution operations. Analysis indicates no salvage being recorded in the past 12 years but significant cost to remove is being experienced and is expected to continue for this account. Moving averages from most recent to 10 years is negative 60 to negative 89 percent. The most recent 10 year overall is a negative 70 percent and 2011 experience is negative 60 percent. Based on the analysis, discussions with Company, and, judgment, this study recommends moving from the existing negative 45 percent to a negative 65 percent net salvage based on the consistent overall indications of increasing cost of removal being experienced by the Company.

Account 381.00 – 384.00 Meters House Regulators, & Installations (-20%)

These accounts include any salvage and removal cost related to meters used in installations, measuring, regulators and regulator installations. Due to the combined life analysis, the net salvage analysis was also combined to reflect Company plans and expectations to retire assets in these accounts at the time of a meter replacement. Very little salvage is being recorded now and none is expected in the future. Cost of removal is being consistently recorded and is

expected to continue. Based on the combined analysis and the overall indications we recommend retention of the existing negative 20 percent net salvage factor at this time.

Account 385.00 Industrial M&R Station Equipment (-5%)

This account includes any salvage and removal cost related to meters, regulator installations, regulator stations, valves and pressure recorders for industrial customers. No salvage has been recorded and is unlikely. Cost of removal was recorded in 2010 and 2011. Based on the analysis and expectations that some cost of removal will be incurred, this study recommends moving from the existing 0 percent to a negative 5 percent net salvage at this time for this account.

Account 387.00 Other Equipment (-5%)

This account includes any salvage and removal cost related to leak detectors, pipe locators, flame ionization and other miscellaneous equipment. Few retirements, minimal salvage and some cost of removal recorded. Based on the overall analysis indications and judgment, this study recommends retention of the existing negative 5 percent net salvage for this account.

General Plant – FERC Accounts 390-399.08**Depreciated Accounts 390, 392 and 396****Account 390.00 Structures and Improvements (0%)**

This account includes the gross salvage and cost or removal for costs of structures and improvements used for utility service. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Some salvage and cost of removal has been recorded in the past but is due to the sale of the Yates office building. These are unlikely to reoccur as a result, the remaining activity indicates there is little to no net salvage. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 390.03, 390.04, and 390.09 Improvements, Air Conditioning, and Leasehold Improvements (0%)

This account includes the cost of roofs, foundation, air conditioning equipment and leasehold improvements such as carpet, lighting and other structures and improvements. The existing net salvage is 0 percent and is retained in this study.

Account 392.00 Transportation Equipment (10%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for cars, trucks, and other transportation equipment that can be licensed on roadways. The existing net salvage is 5 percent. The Company leases most of its vehicles. Assets contained in this account are primarily trailers, tractor and heavy duty trucks. The overall analysis indicates a 10 percent net salvage and is reasonable based on the type of assets and Company expectations for the account. This study recommends moving from 5 to 10 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 396.00 Power Operated Equipment and Backhoes (4%)

This account consists of bulldozers, forklifts, trenchers, and other power operated equipment that cannot be licensed on roadways. The existing net salvage

is zero percent. Overall indications suggest salvage is being received and no cost of removal is expected. This study recommends moving from the existing zero percent net salvage to 4 percent as reflected in the overall analysis.

General Amortized Accounts 391, 393-395, 397-399.08

For the assets classified as amortized, where FERC AR 15 has been implemented, no net salvage is present.

Account 391.00 Office Furniture & Equipment and Office Machines (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for miscellaneous office furniture such as desks, chairs, filing cabinets, and tables. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. This study recommends retention of the 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 393.00 Stores Equipment (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for stores equipment. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. This study recommends retention of the 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 394.00 Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for various tools used in the shop and garages such as boring equipment, leak detectors, pipe locators, fusion, tapping, and plugging equipment. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. This study recommends retention of the 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 395.00 Laboratory Equipment (0%)

This account includes the gross salvage and cost of removal for cost of laboratory equipment such as calorimeters, gauges, or other testing apparatus. The

existing net salvage is 0 percent. This study recommends retention of the 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Accounts 397.00, 397.01, and 397.02 Communication Equipment (0%)

This account consists of telephone and telemetering equipment. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 398.00 Miscellaneous Equipment (0%)

This account consists of miscellaneous equipment. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 399.00 Other Tangible Property (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for server hardware computer equipment. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 399.01 Servers Hardware (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for server hardware computer equipment. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 399.02 Servers Software (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for server software. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage

for this account.

Account 399.03 Network Hardware (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for network hardware computer equipment. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 399.05 Mainframe Hardware (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for computer mainframe hardware. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 399.06 PC Hardware (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for personal computer hardware, laptop, printers, monitors, and projectors. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 399.07 PC Software (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for software for personal computers. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

Account 399.08 Application Software (0%)

This account consists of gross salvage and cost of removal for large application software. The existing net salvage is 0 percent. Typically, these assets

do not produce any gross salvage or removal cost. This study recommends retaining 0 percent net salvage for this account.

APPENDIX A
Comparison of Depreciation Rates

Atmos Energy Corporation - Kansas Division
At September 30, 2011
Comparison of Existing vs Proposed
Accrual Rate

Account	Description (b)	Plant Balance		Existing		Proposed		Change in Depreciation Expense [h]
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	
STORAGE PLANT								
35020	Rights-of-Way	568,935.31	3.05%	17,352.53	1.76%	10,013.26	(7,339.27)	
35100	Well Structures	102,922.98	2.18%	2,243.72	2.13%	2,192.26	(51.46)	
35200	Wells	1,136,224.55	4.62%	52,493.57	2.15%	24,428.83	(28,064.75)	
35300	Pipelines	1,145,817.65	2.32%	26,582.97	2.36%	27,041.30	458.33	
35400	Compressor Station Equipment	2,259,429.59	4.02%	90,829.07	2.90%	65,523.46	(25,305.61)	
35500	M&R Equipment	220,010.72	4.69%	10,318.50	2.72%	5,984.29	(4,334.21)	
35600	Purification Equipment	288,382.11	4.37%	12,602.30	1.80%	5,190.88	(7,411.42)	
35700	Other Equipment	125,321.36	3.07%	3,847.37	2.10%	2,631.75	(1,215.62)	
	Total Storage	5,847,044.27	3.70%	216,270.03	2.45%	143,006.02	(73,264.01)	
TRANSMISSION PLANT								
36520	Rights-of-Way	9,037.30	1.95%	176.23	2.12%	191.59	15.36	
36600	Structures and Improvements	33,191.19	1.89%	627.31	2.89%	959.23	331.91	
36700	Mains - Cathodic Protection	3,452,903.74	1.64%	56,627.62	2.36%	81,488.53	24,860.91	
36701	Mains - Steel	143,453.18	1.64%	2,352.63	3.44%	4,934.79	2,582.16	
36703	Mains Anodes	2,334.13	1.64%	38.28	4.57%	106.67	68.39	
36704	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	0.00	1.64%	0.00	8.33%	0.00	0.00	
36800	Compressor Station Equipment	31,496.47	5.47%	1,722.86	5.96%	1,877.19	154.33	
36900	M&R Station Equipment	526,227.23	2.09%	10,998.15	4.19%	22,048.92	11,050.77	
	Total Transmission	4,198,643.24	1.73%	72,543.08	2.66%	111,606.91	39,063.83	
DISTRIBUTION PLANT								
37402	Rights-of-Way	292,602.99	2.92%	8,544.01	2.12%	6,203.18	(2,340.82)	
37500	Structures and Improvements	119,493.70	3.10%	3,704.30	4.27%	5,102.38	1,398.08	
37600	Mains - Cathodic Protection	4,179,130.11	2.02%	84,418.43	3.33%	139,165.03	54,746.60	
37601	Mains - Steel	32,805,122.95	2.02%	662,663.48	3.08%	1,010,397.79	347,734.30	
37602	Mains - Plastic	78,899,087.04	2.02%	1,593,761.56	3.24%	2,556,330.42	962,568.86	
37603	Mains - Anodes	2,985,070.81	2.02%	60,298.43	7.19%	214,626.59	154,328.16	
37604	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	5,594,122.06	2.02%	113,001.27	14.20%	794,365.33	681,364.07	
37800	M&R Station Equipment	3,571,300.76	4.74%	169,279.66	5.33%	190,350.33	21,070.67	
37900	City Gate Equipment	2,207,812.05	2.53%	55,857.64	4.16%	91,844.98	35,987.34	
37908	City Gate Equipment	14,850.51	2.53%	375.72	4.14%	614.81	239.09	

Atmos Energy Corporation - Kansas Division
At September 30, 2011
Comparison of Existing vs Proposed
Accrual Rate

Account	Description (b)	Plant Balance		Existing		Proposed		Change in Depreciation Expense [h]
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)		
38000	Services	57,635,135.19	3.49%	2,011,466.22	5.41%	3,118,060.81	1,106,594.60	
38100	Meters	15,021,142.34	5.12%	769,082.49	6.93%	1,040,965.16	271,882.68	
38200	Meter Installations	23,917,802.91	6.86%	1,640,761.28	7.39%	1,767,525.64	126,764.36	
38300	House Regulators	2,209,798.32	2.66%	58,780.64	6.70%	148,056.49	89,275.85	
38400	House Regulator Installations	209,461.47	1.65%	3,456.11	7.23%	15,144.06	11,687.95	
38500	Industrial M&R Equipment	951,405.33	3.78%	35,963.12	6.29%	59,843.40	23,880.27	
38700	Other Equipment	613,731.61	15.08%	92,550.73	7.47%	45,845.75	(46,704.98)	
	Total Distribution	231,227,070.15	3.18%	7,363,965.08	4.85%	11,204,442.16	3,840,477.08	
GENERAL PLANT - DEPRECIATED								
39000	Structures and Improvements	1,853,668.26	3.31%	61,356.42	3.26%	60,429.59	(926.83)	
39003	Improvements	1,512.88	3.31%	50.08	4.15%	62.78	12.71	
39004	Air Conditioning Equipment	8,781.87	3.31%	290.68	4.17%	366.20	75.52	
39009	Leasehold Improvements	39,013.13	3.31%	1,291.33	4.20%	1,638.55	347.22	
39200	Transportation Equipment	645,301.60	25.98%	167,649.36	17.99%	116,089.76	(51,559.60)	
39600	Power Operated Equipment	490,962.01	16.62%	81,597.89	14.31%	70,256.66	(11,341.22)	
39604	Backhoes	203,475.27	16.62%	33,817.59	15.03%	30,582.33	(3,235.26)	
39605	Welders	54,818.88	16.62%	9,110.90	14.52%	7,959.70	(1,151.20)	
	Total General Depreciated	3,297,533.90	10.77%	355,164.24	8.72%	287,385.58	(67,778.66)	
	Total Depreciated	244,570,291.56	3.27%	8,007,942.43	4.80%	11,746,440.68	3,738,498.25	
GENERAL PLANT - AMORTIZED								
39100	Office Furniture and Equipment	429,389.08	12.20%	52,385.47	(1)	31,709.64	(20,675.82)	
39300	Stores Equipment	1,308.13	7.85%	102.69	(1)	61.35	(41.34)	
39400	Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment	2,473,079.70	8.03%	198,588.30	(1)	190,825.63	(7,762.67)	
39500	Laboratory Equipment	14,057.47	5.13%	721.15	(1)	1,121.17	400.02	
39700	Communication Equipment	410,878.57	11.96%	49,141.08	(1)	36,679.55	(12,461.53)	
39701	Mobile Radios	7,901.70	11.96%	945.04	(1)	1,294.48	349.44	
39702	Fixed Radios	6,064.82	11.96%	725.35	(1)	539.21	(186.14)	
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	7,674.27	6.59%	505.73	(1)	526.07	20.33	
39901	Servers Hardware	25,349.38	7.21%	1,827.69	(1)	3,872.38	2,044.69	
39902	Servers Software	63,701.89	7.21%	4,592.91	(1)	11,413.37	6,820.46	
39903	Network Hardware	180,428.24	7.21%	13,008.88	(1)	30,340.73	17,331.85	

Atmos Energy Corporation - Kansas Division
At September 30, 2011
Comparison of Existing vs Proposed
Accrual Rate

Account	Description	Plant Balance (c)	Existing		Proposed		Change in Depreciation Expense
			Annual Accrual Rate (d)	Annual Accrual (e)	Annual Accrual Rate [f]	Annual Accrual [g]	
(a)	(b)						[h]
39906	PC Hardware	588,495.87	7.21%	42,430.55	(1)	192,901.38	150,470.82
39907	PC Software	84,069.92	7.21%	6,061.44	(1)	25,529.01	19,467.57
39908	Application Software	213,445.03	7.21%	15,389.39	(1)	36,683.89	21,294.50
	Total General Amortized after Ret	4,505,844.07	8.58%	386,425.66	(1)	563,497.84	177,072.18
	Total Depreciated & Amortized	249,076,135.63	3.37%	8,394,368.09	4.94%	12,309,938.52	3,915,570.43
	AR 15 Retirements	648,650.04					
	Fully Depreciated 35202 and 39603	137,706.74					
	Retire 36703/4 and 37603/3 Amortize	1,100,065.60					
	Total Study	250,962,558.01					
	Non-Depreciable	925,012.38					
	Total PIS Study	251,887,570.39					
	Total PIS Per GL	251,887,570.39					
	Diff	-					

(1) General Plant - Amortized proposed accrual includes ongoing amortization (1/Life) plus fixed (Deficit)/Surplus accrual

APPENDIX B
Calculation of Equal Life Group

Atmos Energy - Kansas
At September 30, 2011
Calculation of Equal Life Group Depreciation
Accrual Rate

Appendix B-2

Acct	Description	Plant Balance	Allocated Reserve	Net Salvage %	Net Salvage Amount	Unaccrued Balance	Annual Remaining Life	Annual Accrual Amount	Annual Accrual Rate
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
STORAGE PLANT									
35020	Rights-of-Way	568,935.31	297,207.77	0%	-	271,727.54	27.20	9,989.92	1.76%
35100	Well Structures	102,922.98	60,051.25	0%	-	42,871.73	19.52	2,196.39	2.13%
35200	Wells	1,136,224.55	678,346.92	-20%	(227,244.91)	685,122.54	28.09	24,391.48	2.15%
35300	Pipelines	1,145,817.65	695,580.35	-25%	(286,454.41)	736,691.72	27.21	27,078.32	2.36%
35400	Compressor Station Equipment	2,259,429.59	1,547,929.64	0%	-	711,499.95	10.87	65,469.12	2.90%
35500	M&R Equipment	220,010.72	160,681.29	0%	-	59,329.43	9.90	5,991.77	2.72%
35600	Purification Equipment	288,382.11	242,809.85	0%	-	45,572.26	8.80	5,177.28	1.80%
35700	Other Equipment	125,321.36	90,753.84	0%	-	34,567.52	13.16	2,626.47	2.10%
	Total Storage	5,847,044.27	3,773,360.91		(513,699.32)	2,587,382.68		142,920.75	
TRANSMISSION PLANT									
36520	Rights-of-Way	9,037.30	1,958.48	0%	-	7,078.82	37.01	191.27	2.12%
36600	Structures and Improvements	33,191.19	19,856.58	-10%	(3,319.12)	16,653.73	17.34	960.64	2.89%
36700	Mains - Cathodic Protection	3,452,903.74	2,020,559.74	-12%	(414,348.45)	1,846,692.45	22.63	81,606.74	2.36%
36701	Mains - Steel	143,453.18	7,107.67	-12%	(17,214.38)	153,559.89	31.11	4,936.01	3.44%
36703	Mains Anodes	2,334.13	2,003.15	0%	-	330.98	3.10	106.72	4.57%
36704	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	-	-	0%	-	-	0.00%	-	8.33% *
36800	Compressor Station Equipment	31,496.47	13,044.25	-10%	(3,149.65)	21,601.86	11.50	1,878.42	5.96%
36900	M&R Station Equipment	526,227.23	332,283.98	-20%	(105,245.45)	299,188.70	13.58	22,028.45	4.19%
	Total Transmission	4,198,643.24	2,396,813.85		(543,277.04)	2,345,106.43		111,708.26	
DISTRIBUTION PLANT									
37402	Rights-of-Way	292,602.99	42,973.24	0%	-	249,629.75	40.21	6,208.45	2.12%
37500	Structures and Improvements	119,493.70	42,614.95	-5%	(5,974.69)	82,853.44	16.25	5,099.12	4.27%
37600	Mains - Cathodic Protection	4,179,130.11	928,284.16	-25%	(1,044,782.53)	4,285,648.48	30.90	139,024.35	3.33%
37601	Mains - Steel	32,805,122.95	11,243,386.53	-25%	(8,201,280.74)	29,763,017.15	29.42	1,011,621.85	3.08%
37602	Mains - Plastic	78,899,087.04	19,107,308.72	-25%	(19,724,771.76)	79,516,550.08	31.14	2,553,208.34	3.24%
37603	Mains - Anodes	2,985,070.81	994,536.72	0%	-	1,990,534.09	9.28	214,494.75	7.19%
37604	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	5,594,122.06	3,308,546.18	0%	-	2,285,575.88	2.88	794,541.27	14.20%
37800	M&R Station Equipment	3,571,300.76	1,229,269.56	-5%	(178,565.04)	2,520,596.24	13.23	190,511.65	5.33%
37900	City Gate Equipment	2,207,812.05	825,154.80	-5%	(110,390.60)	1,493,047.86	16.27	91,744.23	4.16%
37908	City Gate Equipment	14,850.51	6,227.87	-5%	(742.53)	9,365.17	15.25	614.30	4.14%
38000	Services	57,635,135.19	24,446,625.53	-65%	(37,462,837.87)	70,651,347.53	22.67	3,116,068.53	5.41%
38100	Meters	15,021,142.34	7,858,449.79	-20%	(3,004,228.47)	10,166,921.02	9.77	1,040,615.26	6.93%
38200	Meter Installations	23,917,802.91	8,796,169.71	-20%	(4,783,560.58)	19,905,193.78	11.26	1,767,863.28	7.39%
38300	House Regulators	2,209,798.32	1,339,088.47	-20%	(441,959.66)	1,312,669.51	8.87	148,020.16	6.70%
38400	House Regulator Installations	209,461.47	162,533.47	-20%	(41,892.29)	88,820.30	5.87	15,136.23	7.23%
38500	Industrial M&R Equipment	951,405.33	258,397.57	-5%	(47,570.27)	740,578.02	12.38	59,826.73	6.29%
38700	Other Equipment	613,731.61	280,510.54	-5%	(30,686.58)	363,907.65	7.94	45,832.40	7.47%
	Total Distribution	231,227,070.15	80,870,057.81		(75,079,243.60)	225,436,255.94		11,200,430.92	

**Atmos Energy - Kansas
At September 30, 2011
Calculation of Equal Life Group Depreciation
Accrual Rate**

Appendix B-2

Acct (a)	Description (b)	Plant Balance (c)	Allocated Reserve (d)	Net Salvage % (e)	Net Salvage Amount (f)	Unaccrued Balance (g)	Annual Remaining Life (h)	Annual Accrual Amount (i)	Annual Accrual Rate (j)
GENERAL PLANT - DEPRECIATED									
39000	Structures and Improvements	1,853,668.26	232,450.39	0.00%	-	1,621,217.87	26.85	60,374.10	3.26%
39003	Improvements	1,512.88	519.81	0.00%	-	993.07	15.80	62.84	4.15%
39004	Air Conditioning Equipment	8,781.87	3,192.81	0.00%	-	5,589.06	15.25	366.61	4.17%
39009	Leasehold Improvements	39,013.13	14,898.72	0.00%	-	24,114.41	14.72	1,638.41	4.20%
39200	Transportation Equipment	645,301.60	219,627.89	10.00%	64,530.16	361,143.55	3.11	116,103.30	17.99%
39600	Power Operated Equipment	490,962.01	197,532.87	4.00%	19,638.48	273,790.66	3.90	70,240.34	14.31%
39604	Backhoes	203,475.27	76,937.75	4.00%	8,139.01	118,398.51	3.87	30,576.46	15.03%
39605	Welders	54,818.88	14,849.14	4.00%	2,192.76	37,776.99	4.74	7,962.20	14.52%
	Total General Depreciated	3,297,533.90	760,009.38		94,500.41	2,443,024.12		287,324.26	
	Total Depreciated	244,570,291.56	87,800,241.95		(76,041,719.56)	232,811,769.18		11,742,384.19	

**Atmos Energy - Kansas
At September 30, 2011
Calculation of Equal Life Group Depreciation
Accrual Rate**

Appendix B-2

Acct	Description	Plant Balance	Allocated Reserve	Net Salvage %	Net Salvage Amount	Unaccrued Balance	Annual Remaining Life	Annual Accrual Amount	Annual Accrual Rate
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
GENERAL PLANT - AMORTIZED									
Account	Description	Balance 9/30/2011	Allocated Reserve 9/30/2011	Theoretical Reserve 9/30/2011	Reserve (Deficit)/Surplus	Remaining Life	Amortize Reserve (Deficit)/Surplus		
39100	Office Furniture and Equipment	434,831.09	100,051.30	132,294.52	(32,243.22)	10.46	3,083.71		
39300	Stores Equipment	1,308.13	538.50	722.02	(183.52)	12.55	14.63		
39400	Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment	2,565,049.50	782,989.15	1,018,491.24	(235,502.09)	9.07	25,953.65		
39500	Laboratory Equipment	21,222.67	10,813.53	12,056.90	(1,243.37)	6.76	184.01		
39700	Communication Equipment	410,878.57	67,094.66	89,960.78	(22,866.12)	9.37	2,439.67		
39701	Mobile Radios	7,901.70	4,665.49	6,255.51	(1,590.02)	2.50	636.01		
39702	Fixed Radios	6,064.82	942.35	1,263.50	(321.16)	9.50	33.81		
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	7,674.27	572.36	767.43	(195.06)	13.50	14.45		
39901	Servers Hardware	25,349.38	4,051.31	5,432.01	(1,380.70)	5.50	251.04		
39902	Servers Software	63,701.89	23,755.11	31,850.95	(8,095.83)	3.50	2,313.10		
39903	Network Hardware	180,428.24	55,261.65	74,095.03	(18,833.39)	4.13	4,565.26		
39906	PC Hardware	1,132,568.90	733,856.27	798,535.13	(64,678.87)	1.41	45,777.41		
39907	PC Software	84,069.92	28,707.71	38,491.41	(9,783.70)	2.17	4,511.53		
39908	Application Software	213,445.03	70,697.22	94,791.11	(24,093.89)	3.89	6,191.74		
	Total General Amortized	5,154,494.11	1,883,996.61	2,305,007.54	(421,010.93)		95,969.99		
		249,724,785.67	89,684,238.56	2,305,007.54	(76,462,730.49)		95,969.99		

After Retirements of Assets With Age > Average Service Life

Account	Description	Plant Balance 9/30/2011	Allocated Reserve 9/30/2011	Annual Amortization (1)	Accrual For Reserve (Deficit)/Surplus	Total Amortization	Ongoing Amortization Rate %
39100	Office Furniture and Equipment	429,389.08	94,609.29	28,625.94	3,083.71	31,709.64	6.67% (2)
39100	Office Furniture and Equipment						
39100	Total			46.72	14.63	61.35	3.57% (2)
39300	Stores Equipment	1,308.13	538.50				
39300	Stores Equipment						
39300	Total			164,871.98	25,953.65	190,825.63	6.67% (2)
39400	Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment	2,473,079.70	691,019.35				
39400	Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipment						
39400	Total	14,057.47	3,648.33	937,164,666.7	184.01	1,121.17	6.67% (2)
39500	Laboratory Equipment						
39500	Laboratory Equipment						
39500	Total	410,878.57	67,094.66	34,239.88	2,439.67	36,679.55	8.33% (2)
39700	Communication Equipment						
39700	Communication Equipment						
39700	Total	7,901.70	4,665.49	658.48	636.01		8.33% (2)
39701	Mobile Radios						
39701	Mobile Radios						

Atmos Energy - Kansas
At September 30, 2011
Calculation of Equal Life Group Depreciation
Accrual Rate

Appendix B-2

Acct	Description	Plant Balance	Allocated Reserve	Net Salvage %	Net Salvage Amount	Unaccrued Balance	Annual Remaining Life	Annual Accrual Amount	Annual Accrual Rate
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
39701	Total					1,294.48	8.33%		
39702	Fixed Radios	6,064.82	942.35	505.40	33.81		(2)		
39702	Fixed Radios					539.21			
39702	Total								
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	7,674.27	572.36	511.62	14.45		(2)		
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment					526.07			
39800	Total								
39901	Servers Hardware	25,349.38	4,051.31	3,621.34	251.04		(2)		
39901	Servers Hardware					3,872.38			
39901	Total								
39902	Servers Software	63,701.89	23,755.11	9,100.27	2,313.10		(2)		
39902	Servers Software					11,413.37			
39902	Total								
39903	Network Hardware	180,428.24	55,261.65	25,775.46	4,565.26		(2)		
39903	Network Hardware					30,340.73			
39903	Total								
39906	PC Hardware	588,495.87	189,783.24	147,123.97	45,777.41		(2)		
39906	PC Hardware					192,901.38			
39906	Total								
39907	PC Software	84,069.92	28,707.71	21,017.48	4,511.53		(2)		
39907	PC Software					25,529.01			
39907	Total								
39908	Application Software	213,445.03	70,697.22	30,492.15	6,191.74		(2)		
39908	Application Software					36,683.89			
39908	Total								
Total General Amortized After Ret		4,505,844.07	1,235,348.57	467,527.85	95,969.99	563,497.84			
Total Study Depreciated & Amortized		249,076,135.63	89,035,588.52	467,527.85	(75,945,749.57)	233,375,267.02			
GL		251,887,570.40	90,901,965.73						
Diff		(2,162,784.73)	(1,217,727.17)						
Non Depreciable		925,012.38	(20,045.18)						
Fully Depreciated 35202 & 39603		137,706.75	137,706.75						
Retirements 367 & 376 Amortized		1,100,065.60	1,100,065.60						
Diff		0.00	0.00						

(1) Annual Amortization is 1/life of asset group (excluding Deficit/Surplus Accrual).
(2) Amortization of Reserve (Deficit)/Surplus will be a fixed dollar amount over the current remaining life of the account.

APPENDIX C
Mortality Characteristics

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION - KANSAS DIVISION
Depreciation Study as of September 30, 2011
Comparison of Approved and Study Proposed
Divisions 79, 81 and 86

Account	Description	EXISTING					PROPOSED - 2011				
		Mortality Characteristics					Mortality Characteristics				
		lowa ASL	Gross Curve	Cost of Salvage	Net Removal	Net Salvage	lowa ASL	Gross Curve	Cost of Salvage	Net Removal	Net Salvage
Yrs	%	%	%	%	Yrs	%	%	%	%		
<u>STORAGE PLANT</u>											
350.20	Rights-of-Way	50 R5	0%	0%	0%	50 R5	0%	0%	0%	0%	
351.00	Well Structures	40 R4	0%	0%	0%	40 R4	0%	0%	0%	0%	
352.00	Wells	50 S4	0%	100%	-100%	50 S4	0%	20%	-20%	0%	
352.02	Reservoirs	60 R3	0%	0%	0%	70 R3	0%	0%	0%	0%	
353.00	Pipelines	50 S2	0%	25%	-25%	60 R3	0%	25%	-25%	0%	
354.00	Compressor Station Equipment	25 S2	0%	5%	-5%	50 S2	0%	0%	0%	0%	
355.00	M&R Equipment	25 S2	0%	5%	-5%	25 S2	0%	0%	0%	0%	
356.00	Purification Equipment	30 R4	0%	0%	0%	30 R4	0%	0%	0%	0%	
357.00	Other Equipment	35 R5	0%	0%	0%	35 R5	0%	0%	0%	0%	
<u>TRANSMISSION PLANT</u>											
365.20	Rights-of-Way	50 R5	0%	0%	0%	50 R5	0%	0%	0%	0%	
366.00	Structures and Improvements	40 R2.5	0%	10%	-10%	40 R2.5	0%	10%	-10%	0%	
367.00	Mains - Cathodic Protection	50 S2	0%	15%	-15%	50 R1.5	0%	15%	-15%	0%	
367.01	Mains - Steel	50 S2	0%	15%	-15%	50 R1.5	0%	12%	-12%	0%	
367.03	Mains Anodes	N/A N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
367.04	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	N/A N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
368.00	Compressor Station Equipment	20 SQ	5%	15%	-10%	20 SQ	0%	10%	-10%	0%	
369.00	M&R Station Equipment	30 R0.5	5%	25%	-20%	30 R0.5	0%	20%	-20%	0%	
<u>DISTRIBUTION PLANT</u>											
374.02	Rights-of-Way	50 R5	0%	0%	0%	50 R5	0%	0%	0%	0%	
375.00	Structures and Improvements	35 L2	0%	5%	-5%	31 L2	0%	5%	-5%	0%	
376.00	Mains - Cathodic Protection	50 S2	0%	25%	-25%	50 R1.5	0%	25%	-25%	0%	
376.01	Mains - Steel	50 S2	0%	25%	-25%	50 R1.5	0%	25%	-25%	0%	
376.02	Mains - Plastic	50 S2	0%	25%	-25%	50 R1.5	0%	25%	-25%	0%	
376.03	Mains - Anodes	N/A N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
376.04	Mains - Leak Clamps & Sleeves	N/A N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
378.00	M&R Station Equipment	25 S2	0%	5%	-5%	25 R0.5	0%	5%	-5%	0%	
379.00	City Gate Equipment	30 R1	0%	0%	0%	30 R2	0%	5%	-5%	0%	
379.08	City Gate Equipment	30 R1	0%	0%	0%	30 R2	0%	5%	-5%	0%	
380.00	Services	40 S1	0%	45%	-45%	38 S1	0%	65%	-65%	0%	
381.00	Meters	20 R0.5	0%	20%	-20%	20 R1	0%	20%	-20%	0%	
382.00	Meter Installations	20 R0.5	0%	20%	-20%	20 R1	0%	20%	-20%	0%	
383.00	House Regulators	30 R0.5	0%	5%	-5%	20 R1	0%	20%	-20%	0%	
384.00	House Regulator Installations	30 S5	0%	0%	0%	20 R1	0%	20%	-20%	0%	
385.00	Industrial M&R Equipment	25 R0.5	0%	0%	0%	23 R0.5	0%	5%	-5%	0%	
387.00	Other Equipment	20 L3	5%	10%	-5%	18 L3	0%	5%	-5%	0%	
<u>GENERAL PLANT</u>											
390.00	Structures and Improvements	30 R2	0%	0%	0%	40 R2	0%	0%	0%	0%	
390.03	Improvements	30 R2	0%	0%	0%	30 R2	0%	0%	0%	0%	
390.04	Air Conditioning Equipment	30 R2	0%	0%	0%	30 R2	0%	0%	0%	0%	
390.09	Leasehold Improvements	30 R2	0%	0%	0%	30 R2	0%	0%	0%	0%	
391.00	Office Furniture and Equipment	15 R5	0%	0%	0%	15 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
391.03	Office Machines	15 R5	0%	0%	0%	15 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
392.00	Transportation Equipment	6 L3	5%	0%	5%	6 L3	10%	0%	10%	0%	
393.00	Stores Equipment	28 R0.5	0%	0%	0%	28 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
394.00	Tools, Shop, and Garage Equipmen	15 L5	0%	0%	0%	15 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
395.00	Laboratory Equipment	20 S6	0%	0%	0%	15 SQ	0%	0%	0%	0%	
396.00	Power Operated Equipment	10 L4	0%	0%	0%	8 R3	4%	0%	4%	0%	

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION - KANSAS DIVISION
Depreciation Study as of September 30, 2011
Comparison of Approved and Study Proposed
Divisions 79, 81 and 86

Account	Description	EXISTING					PROPOSED - 2011				
		Mortality Characteristics					Mortality Characteristics				
		lowa	Gross	Cost of	Net	lowa	Gross	Cost of	Net		
		ASL	Curve	Salvage	Removal	Salvage	ASL	Curve	Salvage	Removal	Salvage
	Yrs	%	%	%	Yrs	%	%	%			
396.03	Ditchers	* 10	L4	0%	0%	0%	8	R3	4%	0%	4%
396.04	Backhoes	10	L4	0%	0%	0%	8	R3	4%	0%	4%
396.05	Welders	10	L4	0%	0%	0%	8	R3	4%	0%	4%
397.00	Communication Equipment	12	S6	0%	0%	0%	12	SQ	0%	0%	0%
397.01	Mobile Radios	12	S6	0%	0%	0%	12	SQ	0%	0%	0%
397.02	Fixed Radios	12	S6	0%	0%	0%	12	SQ	0%	0%	0%
398.00	Miscellaneous Equipment	15	R1	0%	0%	0%	15	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.00	Other Tangible Property	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	7	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.01	Servers Hardware	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	7	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.02	Servers Software	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	7	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.03	Network Hardware	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	7	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.05	Mainframe Hardware	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	7	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.06	PC Hardware	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	4	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.07	PC Software	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	4	SQ	0%	0%	0%
399.08	Application Software	8	S5	0%	0%	0%	7	SQ	0%	0%	0%

APPENDIX D
Net Salvage

Exhibit DAW-1

ATMOS ENERGY - KANSAS DIVISION
Depreciation Summary as of September 30, 2011
NET SALVAGE HISTORY

Account	TY	Retirements	Salvage	COR	Net	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1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ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
SHARED SERVICES UNIT

DEPRECIATION RATE STUDY

As of September 30, 2010



<http://www.utilityalliance.com>

**ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION - SHARED SERVICES UNIT
DEPRECIATION RATE STUDY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos” or “Company”) engaged Alliance Consulting Group to conduct a depreciation study of the Company’s Shared Services Unit (“SSU” or “Shared Services”) operations depreciable assets as of fiscal year end September 30, 2010. SSU provides support to Atmos Energy Corporation’s regulated utility divisions.

The regulated natural gas utility divisions during the year ended September 30, 2010 were:

- Atmos Colorado-Kansas Division
- Atmos Louisiana Division
- Atmos Kentucky Mid-States (Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Georgia) Division
- Atmos Mississippi Division
- Atmos Mid-Tex Division
- Atmos West Texas Division

The depreciation rates are based on the straight-line method, equal life group (“ELG”) procedure, and remaining-life technique. This study results in an annual depreciation expense accrual of \$19.8 million when applied to depreciable plant balances as of September 30, 2010.

The depreciation study we conducted analyzed and developed depreciation recommendations at an account level. The resulting annual depreciation accrual amounts and depreciation rates contained in this study are at the account level. The Company will accrue depreciation expense based on the account level depreciation rates developed in this study. Appendix A demonstrates the annual depreciation expense.

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION
ATMOS SHARED SERVICES UNIT
DEPRECIATION RATE STUDY
As of September 30, 2010
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to develop depreciation rates for the depreciable property as recorded on Shared Services' books at September 30, 2010. The account based depreciation rates were designed to recover the total remaining undepreciated investment, adjusted for net salvage, over the remaining life of Shared Services' property on a straight-line basis. Non-depreciable property and property which is amortized, such as intangible software were excluded from this study.

Shared Services is a division of Atmos Corporation dedicated to providing various support services to its operating companies. As of the study date, Shared Services supported regulated gas utility divisions operating in 12 different states.

STUDY RESULTS

The existing and current study annual depreciation expense results from the use of Iowa Curve dispersion patterns with average service life, the equal life group ("ELG") procedure and remaining-life technique, and consideration of net salvage in the development of the study recommended depreciation rates. Detailed information for each of these factors will follow in this report.

Overall depreciation rates for Shared Services depreciable property are shown in Appendix A. These rates translate into an annual depreciation accrual of \$19.8 million based on Shared Services' depreciable investment at September 30, 2010.

Appendix A presents the recommended study annual accrual rates and amounts. Appendix B presents the development of the depreciation rates and annual accruals. Appendix C presents the recommended study mortality and net salvage parameters by account. Appendix D shows net salvage history by plant account.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Definition

The term "depreciation" as used in this study is considered in the accounting sense, that is, a system of accounting that distributes the cost of assets, less net salvage (if any), over the estimated useful life of the assets in a systematic and rational manner. It is a process of allocation, not valuation. This expense is systematically allocated to accounting periods over the life of the properties. The amount allocated to any one accounting period does not necessarily represent the loss or decrease in value that will occur during that particular period. The Company accrues depreciation on the basis of the original cost of all depreciable property included in each functional property group. On retirement the full cost of depreciable property, less the net salvage value, is charged to the depreciation reserve.

Basis of Depreciation Estimates

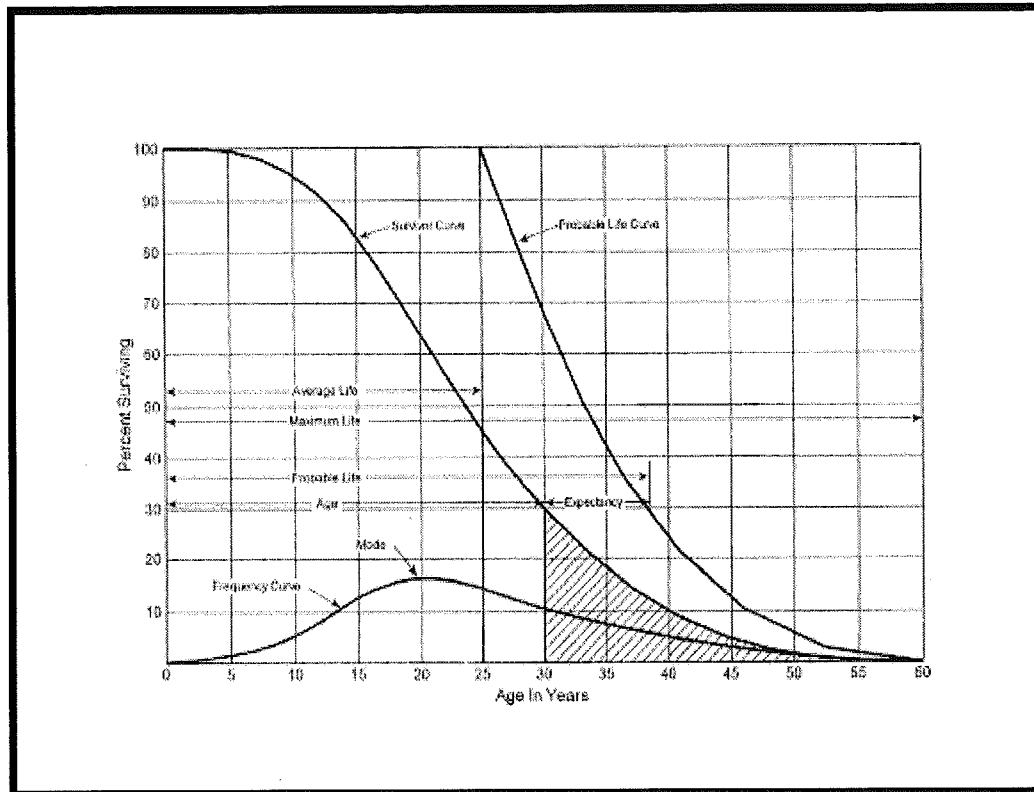
The straight-line, equal life group ("ELG"), remaining-life depreciation system was employed to calculate annual and accrued depreciation in this study. In this system, the annual depreciation expense for each group is computed by dividing the original cost of the asset less allocated depreciation reserve less estimated net salvage by its respective equal life group remaining life. The resulting annual accrual amounts of all depreciable property within a function were accumulated, and the total was divided by the original cost of all functional depreciable property to determine the depreciation rate. The calculated remaining lives and annual depreciation accrual rates were based on attained ages of plant in service and the estimated service life and salvage characteristics of each depreciable group. The computations of the annual depreciation rates are shown in Appendix B and remaining life calculations are provided in the workpapers.

Actuarial analysis was used with each account within a function where

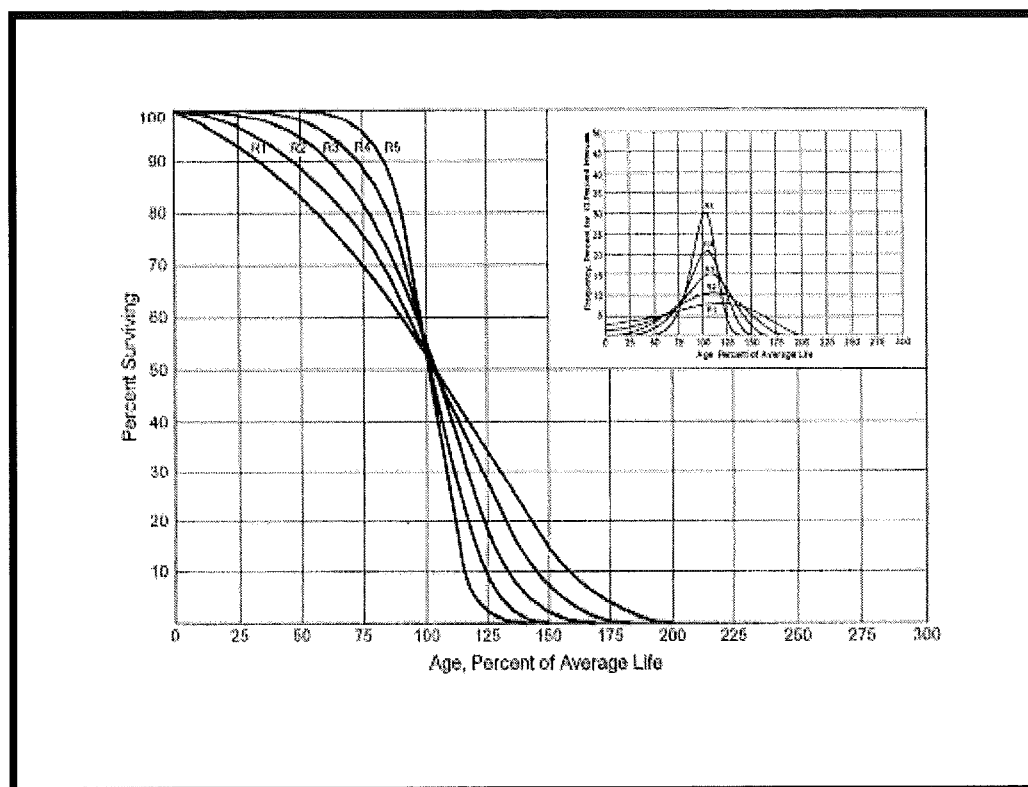
sufficient data was available, and judgment was used to some degree on all accounts.

Survivor Curves

To fully understand depreciation projections in a regulated utility setting, there must be a basic understanding of survivor curves. Individual property units within a group do not normally have identical lives or investment amounts. The average life of a group can be determined by first constructing a survivor curve which is plotted as a percentage of the units surviving at each age. A survivor curve represents the percentage of property remaining in service at various age intervals. The Iowa Curves are the result of an extensive investigation of life characteristics of physical property made at Iowa State College Engineering Experiment Station in the first half of the prior century. Through common usage, revalidation and regulatory acceptance, these curves have become a descriptive standard for the life characteristics of industrial property. An example of an Iowa Curve is shown below.



There are four families in the Iowa Curves that are distinguished by the relation of the age at the retirement mode (largest annual retirement frequency) and the average life. For distributions with the mode age greater than the average life, an "R" designation (i.e., Right modal) is used. The family of "R" moded curves is shown below.



Similarly, an "S" designation (i.e., Symmetric modal) is used for the family whose mode age is symmetric about the average life. An "L" designation (i.e., Left modal) is used for the family whose mode age is less than the average life. A special case of left modal dispersion is the "O" or origin modal curve family. Within each curve family, numerical designations are used to describe the relative magnitude of the retirement frequencies at the mode. A "6" indicates that the retirements are not greatly dispersed from the mode (i.e., high mode frequency) while a "1" indicates a large dispersion about the mode (i.e., low mode frequency). For example, a curve with an average life of 30 years and an "L3" dispersion is a moderately dispersed, left modal curve that can be designated as a 30 L3 Curve. An SQ, or square, survivor curve occurs where no dispersion is present (i.e., units of common age retire simultaneously).

Most property groups can be closely fitted to one Iowa Curve with a unique average service life. The blending of judgment concerning current conditions and

future trends along with the matching of historical data permits the depreciation analyst to make an informed selection of an account's average life and retirement dispersion pattern.

Actuarial Analysis

Actuarial analysis (retirement rate method) was used in evaluating historical asset retirement experience where vintage data were available and sufficient retirement activity was present. In actuarial analysis, interval exposures (total property subject to retirement at the beginning of the age interval, regardless of vintage) and age interval retirements are calculated. The complement of the ratio of interval retirements to interval exposures establishes a survivor ratio. The survivor ratio is the fraction of property surviving to the end of the selected age interval, given that it has survived to the beginning of that age interval. Survivor ratios for all of the available age intervals were chained by successive multiplications to establish a series of survivor factors, collectively known as an observed life table. The observed life table shows the experienced mortality characteristic of the account and may be compared to standard mortality curves such as the Iowa Curves. Where data was available, accounts were analyzed using this method. Placement bands were used to illustrate the composite history over a specific era, and experience bands were used to focus on retirement history for all vintages during a set period. The results from these analyses for those accounts which had data sufficient to be analyzed using this method are shown in the Life Analysis section of this report.

Judgment

Any depreciation study requires informed judgment by the analyst conducting the study. A knowledge of the property being studied, company policies and procedures, general trends in technology and industry practice, and a sound basis of understanding depreciation theory are needed to apply this informed judgment. Judgment was used in areas such as survivor curve modeling and selection, depreciation method selection, simulated plant record method analysis, and actuarial analysis.

Judgment is not defined as being used in cases where there are specific, significant pieces of information that influence the choice of a life or curve. Those cases would simply be a reflection of specific facts into the analysis. Where there are multiple factors, activities, actions, property characteristics, statistical inconsistencies, implications of applying certain curves, property mix in accounts or a multitude of other considerations that impact the analysis (potentially in various directions), judgment is used to take all of these factors and synthesize them into a general direction or understanding of the characteristics of the property. Individually, no one factor in these cases may have a substantial impact on the analysis, but overall, may shed light on the utilization and characteristics of assets. Judgment may also be defined as deduction, inference, wisdom, common sense, or the ability to make sensible decisions. There is no single correct result from statistical analysis; hence, there is no answer absent judgment. At the very least for example, any analysis requires choosing which bands to place more emphasis.

The establishment of appropriate average service lives and retirement dispersions for Shared Services' accounts requires judgment to incorporate the understanding of the operation of the system with the available accounting information analyzed using the Retirement Rate actuarial methods. The appropriateness of lives and curves depends not only on statistical analyses, but also on how well future retirement patterns will match past retirements.

Current applications and trends in use of the equipment also need to be factored into life and survivor curve choices in order for appropriate mortality characteristics to be chosen.

Equal Life Group Depreciation

Atmos agreed that the continued use of the ELG depreciation procedure was appropriate. This study uses the ELG depreciation procedure to group the assets within each account. After an average service life and dispersion were selected for each account, those parameters were used to estimate what portion of the surviving investment of each vintage was expected to retire. The depreciation of the group continues until all investment in the vintage group is retired. ELG groups are defined by their respective account dispersion, life, and net salvage estimates. A straight-line rate for each ELG group is computed and accumulated across each vintage. The resulting rate for each ELG group is designed to recover all retirements less net salvage as each vintage retires. The ELG procedure recovers net book cost over the life of each ELG group rather than averaging many components. It also closely matches the concept of component or item accounting found in all accounting textbooks.

Theoretical Depreciation Reserve

The Company's book depreciation reserves were reallocated based on the theoretical reserves for each account. This study used a reserve model that relied on a prospective concept relating future retirement and accrual patterns for property, given current life and salvage estimates. The theoretical reserve of a group is developed from the estimated remaining life, total life of the property group, and estimated net salvage. The theoretical reserve represents the portion of the group cost that would have been accrued if current forecasts were used throughout the life of the group for future depreciation accruals. The computation involves multiplying the vintage balances within the group by the theoretical reserve ratio for each

vintage. The equal life group method requires an estimate of dispersion and service life to establish how much of each vintage is expected to be retired in each year until all property within the vintage is retired. Estimated average service lives and dispersion determine the amount within each equal life group. The equal life group-remaining-life theoretical reserve ratio (RRELG) is calculated as:

$$RRELG = 1 - \frac{(ELG \text{ Remaining Life})}{(ELG \text{ Life})} * (1 - \text{Net Salvage Ratio})$$

DETAILED DISCUSSION

Depreciation Study Process

This depreciation study encompassed four distinct phases. The first phase involved data collection and field interviews. The second phase was where the initial data analysis occurred. The third phase was where the information and analysis was evaluated. Once the first three stages were complete, the fourth phase began. This phase involved the calculation of depreciation rates and documenting the corresponding recommendations.

During the Phase I data collection process, historical data was compiled from continuing property records and general ledger systems. Data was validated for accuracy by extracting and comparing to multiple financial system sources. Audit of this data was validated against historical data from prior periods, historical general ledger sources, and field personnel discussions. This data was reviewed extensively to put in the proper format for a depreciation study. Further discussion on data review and adjustment is found in the Salvage Considerations Section of this study. Also as part of the Phase I data collection process, numerous discussions were conducted with engineers and field operations personnel to obtain information that would assist in formulating life and salvage recommendations in this study. One of the most important elements of performing a proper depreciation study is to understand how the Company utilizes assets and the environment of those assets. Interviews with engineering and operations personnel are important ways to allow the analyst to obtain information that is beneficial when evaluating the output from the life and net salvage programs in relation to the Company's actual asset utilization and environment. Information that was gleaned in these discussions is found both in the Detailed Discussion of this study in the life analysis and salvage analysis sections and also in workpapers.

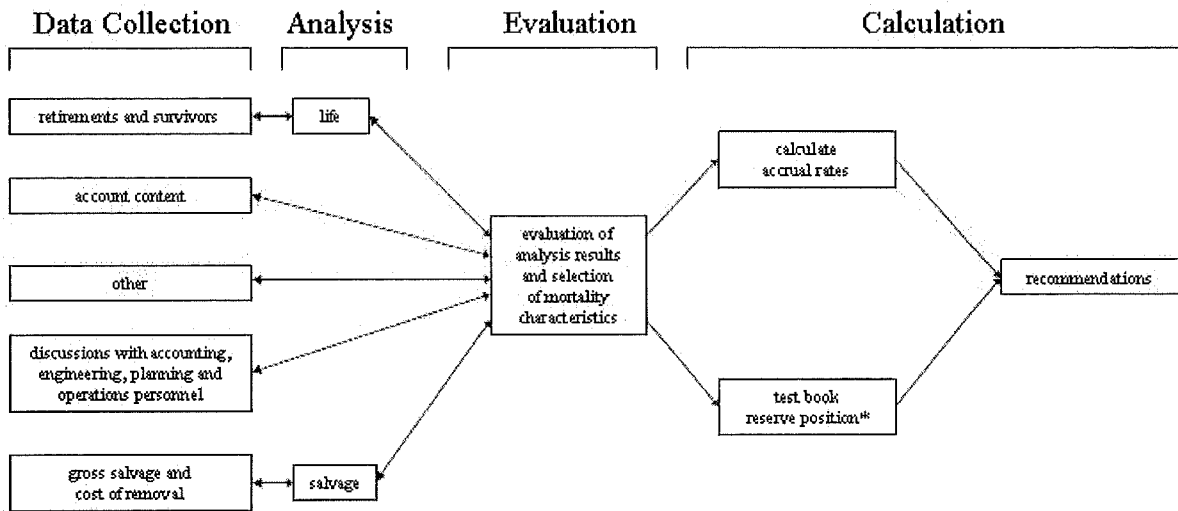
Phase 2 is where the actuarial analysis is performed. Phase 2 and 3 overlap to a significant degree. The detailed property records information is used in phase 2 to develop observed life tables for life analysis. These tables are visually compared to industry standard tables to determine historical life characteristics. It is possible that the analyst would cycle back to this phase based on the evaluation process performed in phase 3. Net salvage analysis consists of compiling historical salvage and removal data by functional group to determine values and trends in gross salvage and removal cost. This information was then carried forward into phase 3 for the evaluation process.

Phase 3 is the evaluation process which synthesizes analysis, interviews, and operational characteristics into a final selection of asset lives and net salvage parameters. The historical analysis from phase 2 is further enhanced by the incorporation of recent or future changes in the characteristics or operations of assets that were revealed in phase 1. Phases 2 and 3 allow the depreciation analyst to validate the asset characteristics as seen in the accounting transactions with actual Company operational experience.

Finally, Phase 4 involved the calculation of accrual rates, making recommendations and documenting the conclusions in a final report. The calculation of accrual rates is found in Appendix B. Recommendations for the various accounts are contained within the Detailed Discussion of this report. The depreciation study flow diagram shown as Figure 1¹ documents the steps used in conducting this study. Depreciation Systems, page 289 documents the same basic processes in performing a depreciation study which are: Statistical analyses, evaluation of statistical analysis, discussions with management, forecast assumptions, write logic supporting forecasts and estimation, and write final report.

¹ Public Utility Finance & Accounting, A Reader

Book Depreciation Study Flow Diagram



Source: Public Utility Finance & Accounting
A Reader

* not required if remaining life rates are calculated

Figure 1

SHARED SERVICES DEPRECIATION STUDY PROCESS

Depreciation Rate Calculation

Annual depreciation expense amounts for the depreciable property accounts of Shared Services were calculated by the straight line, equal life group, and remaining-life system. With this approach, remaining lives were calculated according to standard ELG group expectancy techniques, using the Iowa Survivor Curves noted in the calculation. For each plant account, the difference between the surviving investment, adjusted for estimated net salvage and the allocated book depreciation reserve, was divided by the average remaining life to yield the annual depreciation expense. These calculations are shown in Appendix B.

Remaining Life Calculation

The establishment of appropriate average service lives and retirement dispersions for each account within a functional group was based on engineering judgment that incorporated available accounting information analyzed using the actuarial methods. After establishment of appropriate average service lives and retirement dispersions, remaining lives were computed for each account. The theoretical depreciation reserve with zero net salvage (used in calculating remaining life) was calculated using theoretical reserve ratios as defined in the theoretical reserve portion of the general discussion section. The difference between plant balance and theoretical reserve was then spread over the ELG depreciation accruals. After accumulating the ELG accruals across each vintage, the annual accrual was divided into the net balance to compute remaining life. Details of the theoretical reserve computations, ELG accruals, and remaining life are found by account within each division in the study workpapers.

Calculation Process

Annual depreciation expense amounts for all accounts were calculated by the straight line, remaining life procedure.

In a whole life representation, the annual accrual rate is computed by the

following equation,

$$\text{Annual Accrual Rate} = \frac{(100\% - \text{Net Salvage Percent})}{\text{Average Service Life}}$$

Use of the remaining life depreciation system adds a self-correcting mechanism, which accounts for any differences between theoretical and book depreciation reserve over the remaining life of the group. With the straight line, remaining life, average life group system using lowa Curves, composite remaining lives were calculated according to standard broad group expectancy techniques, noted in the formula below:

$$\text{Composite Remaining Life} = \frac{\sum \text{Original Cost} - \text{Theoretical Reserve}}{\sum \text{Whole Life Annual Accrual}}$$

For each plant account, the difference between the surviving investment, adjusted for estimated net salvage, and the allocated book depreciation reserve, was divided by the composite remaining life to yield the annual depreciation expense as noted in this equation where the net salvage percent represents future net salvage.

$$\text{Annual Depreciation Expense} = \frac{\text{Original Cost} - \text{Book Reserve} - (\text{Original Cost}) * (1 - \text{Net Salvage \%})}{\text{Composite Remaining Life}}$$

Within a group, the sum of the group annual depreciation expense amounts, as a percentage of the depreciable original cost investment summed, gives the annual depreciation rate as shown below:

$$\text{Annual Depreciation Rate} = \frac{\sum \text{Annual Depreciation Expense}}{\sum \text{Original Cost}}$$

These calculations are shown in Appendix B. The calculations of the theoretical depreciation reserve values and the corresponding remaining life calculations are shown in workpapers. Book depreciation reserves were allocated to individual accounts and the theoretical reserve computation was used to compute a composite remaining life for each account.

LIFE ANALYSIS

The retirement rate actuarial analysis method was applied to all accounts for Shared Services. For each account, an actuarial retirement rate analysis was made with placement and experience bands of varying width. The historical observed life table was plotted and compared with various Iowa Survivor Curves to obtain the most appropriate match. A selected curve for each account is shown in the Life Analysis Section of this report. The observed life tables for all analyzed placement and experience bands are provided in workpapers.

For the overall band (i.e. placement from earliest vintage year which varied for each account through 2010) for each account, various dispersion curves were plotted. Frequently, visual matching would confirm one specific dispersion pattern (i.e. L, S, or R) as a better match than others. The next step would be to determine the most appropriate life using that dispersion pattern. Then, after looking at the overall experience band, different experience bands were plotted and analyzed, for instance 1950-2010, 1989-2010, etc. Next placement bands of varying width were plotted with each experience band discussed above. Repeated matching usually pointed to a focus on one dispersion family and small range of service lives. The goal of visual matching was to minimize the differential between the observed life table and Iowa curve in top and mid range of the plots. These results are used in conjunction with all other factors that may influence asset lives.

NET SALVAGE CONSIDERATIONS

When a capital asset is retired, physically removed from service and finally disposed of, terminal retirement is said to have occurred. The residual value of a terminal retirement is called gross salvage. Net salvage is the difference between the gross salvage (what the asset was sold for) and the removal cost (cost to remove and dispose of the asset).

Net Salvage Characteristics

The net salvage analysis, for each account, is shown in Appendix D. Moving averages for intervals are also included in Appendix D. The assets of Shared Services generally do not incur cost of removal and salvage has declined in recent years. In this study a 0 percent net salvage is recommended for each account.

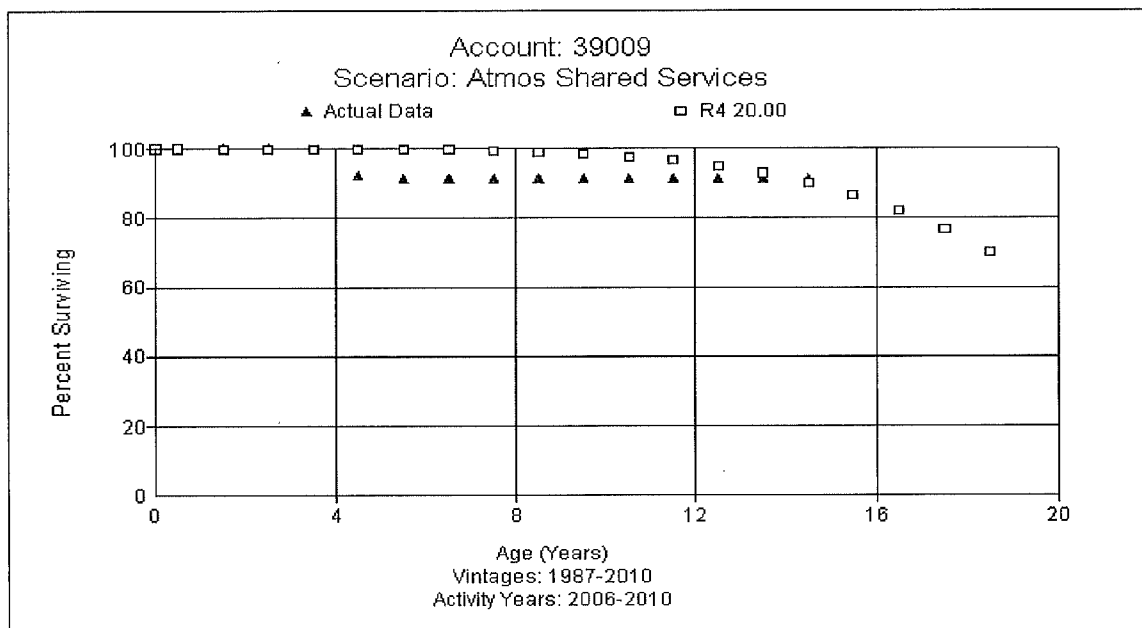
Account Life and Net Salvage Analysis

39000 – Structures & Improvements

This account includes the cost of buildings and improvements. The account balance is \$8.6 million. Costs associated with the Greenville operations center have been recorded in this account and the costs associated with the Charles K. Vaughn training center will be recorded in fiscal year 2011. The average age of investment is 1.5 years, so based on judgment and type of assets this study recommends a 40 year life with the R2 dispersion pattern. No graph is provided. A zero percent net salvage is recommended at this time.

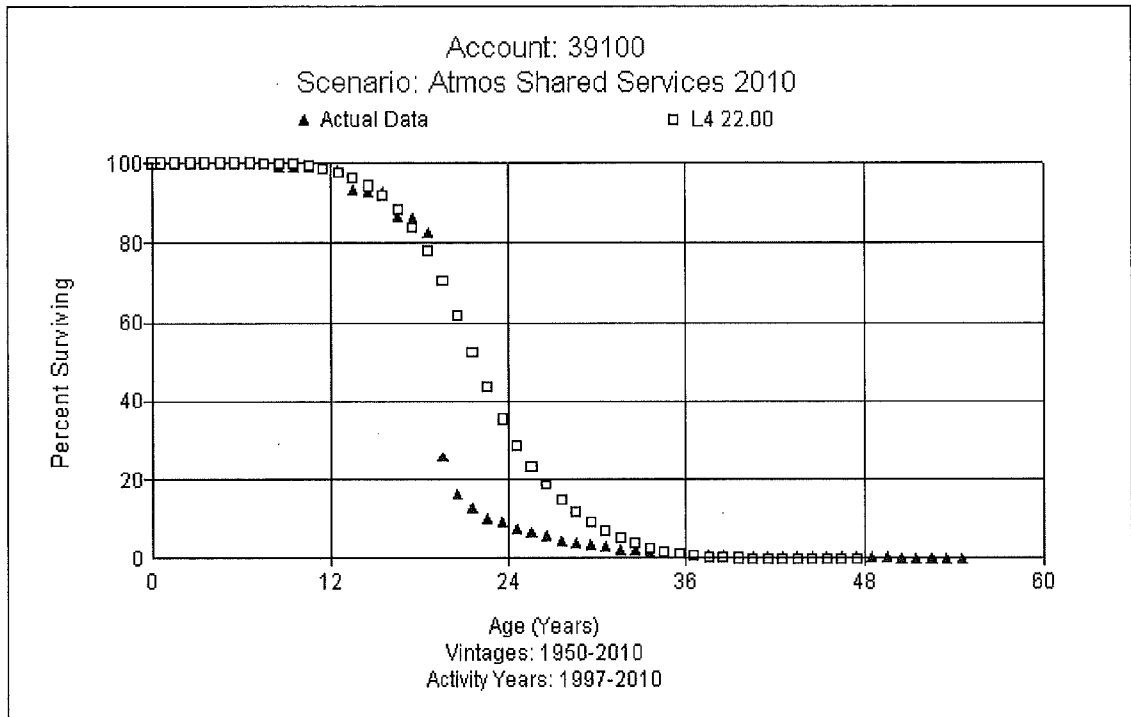
39009 – Improvements to Leased Premises

This account includes the cost of improvements to leased premises such as the Dallas office and call centers. The balance is \$12.7 million. Assets in this account are tied to the lease term, which is about 20 years. This study recommends moving from a 12 year life to a 20 R4 at this time. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. No salvage or removal cost is currently expected for these improvements, therefore a zero percent net salvage is recommending for this account.



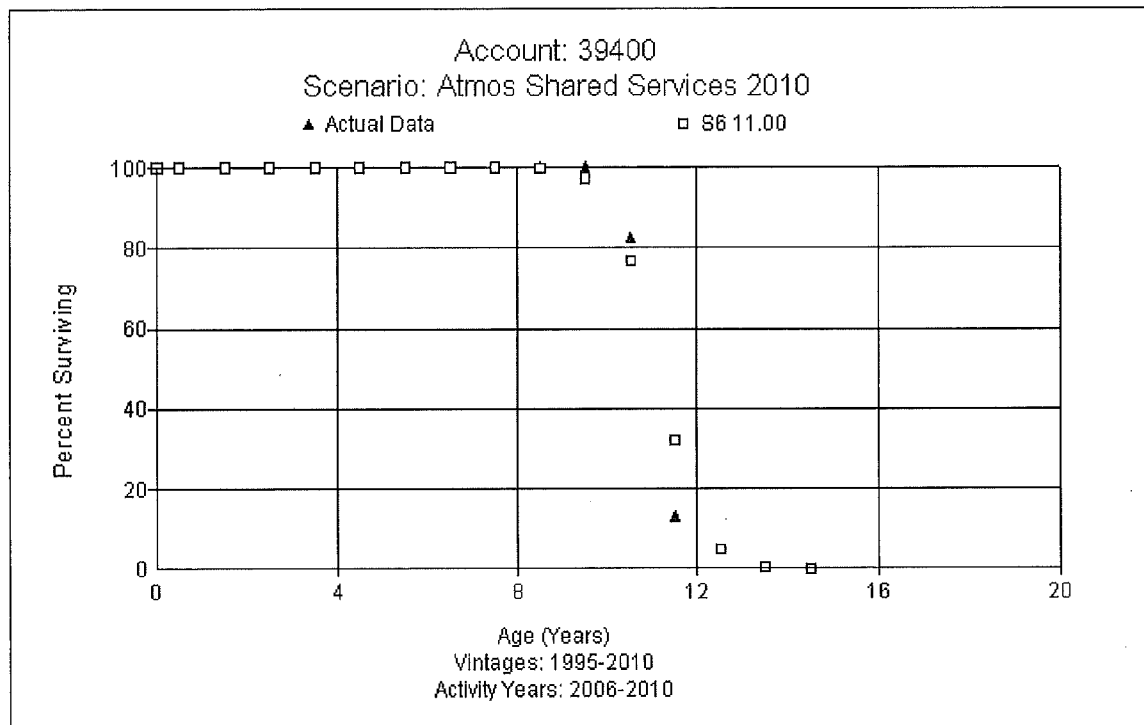
39100 – Office Furniture and Equipment

This account consists of modular furniture, desks, chairs, bookcases, credenzas, file cabinets, office machines and other miscellaneous equipment. The balance is \$11.9 million. An expected life range for the assets in this account is 20 to 25 years. This study recommends a 22 L4 dispersion pattern. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. There is no cost of removal and salvage has declined to a negligible level. A zero percent net salvage rate is recommended for this account.



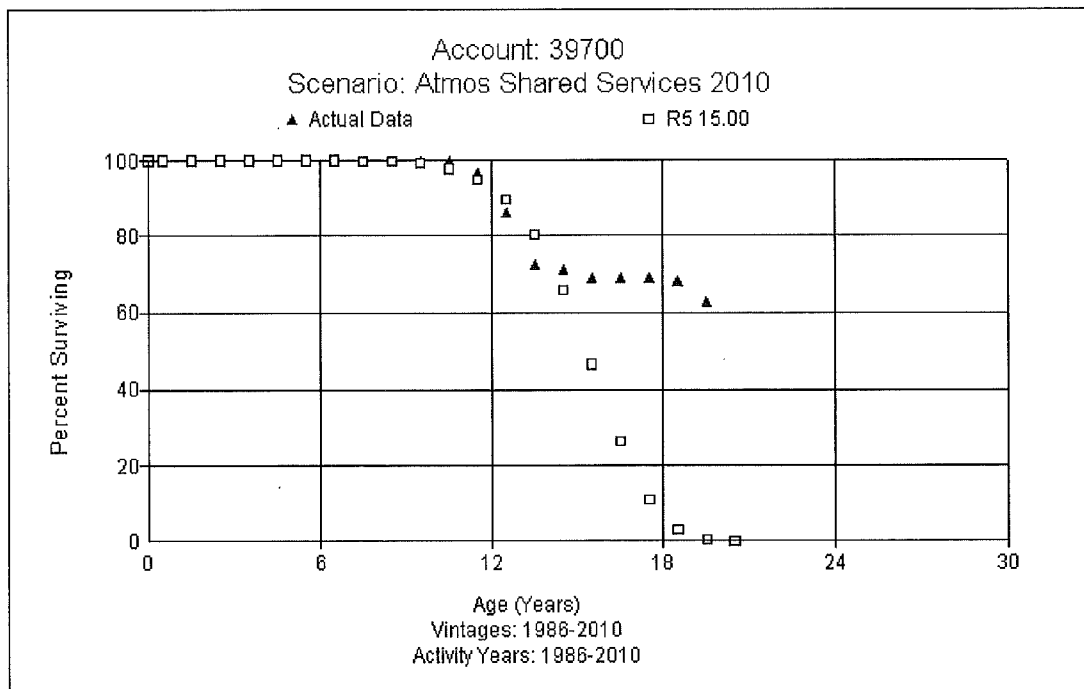
39400 – Tools, Shop & Garage Equipment

This account consists of various small tools and equipment used in an office. The balance is \$83 thousand in this account. The average age of investment is 1.5 years. Due to the type and use of the assets and the analysis, this study recommends an 11 S6 life and dispersion pattern. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. There is generally little or no salvage and no cost of removal related to the equipment in the account. This study recommends a zero percent net salvage rate for this account.



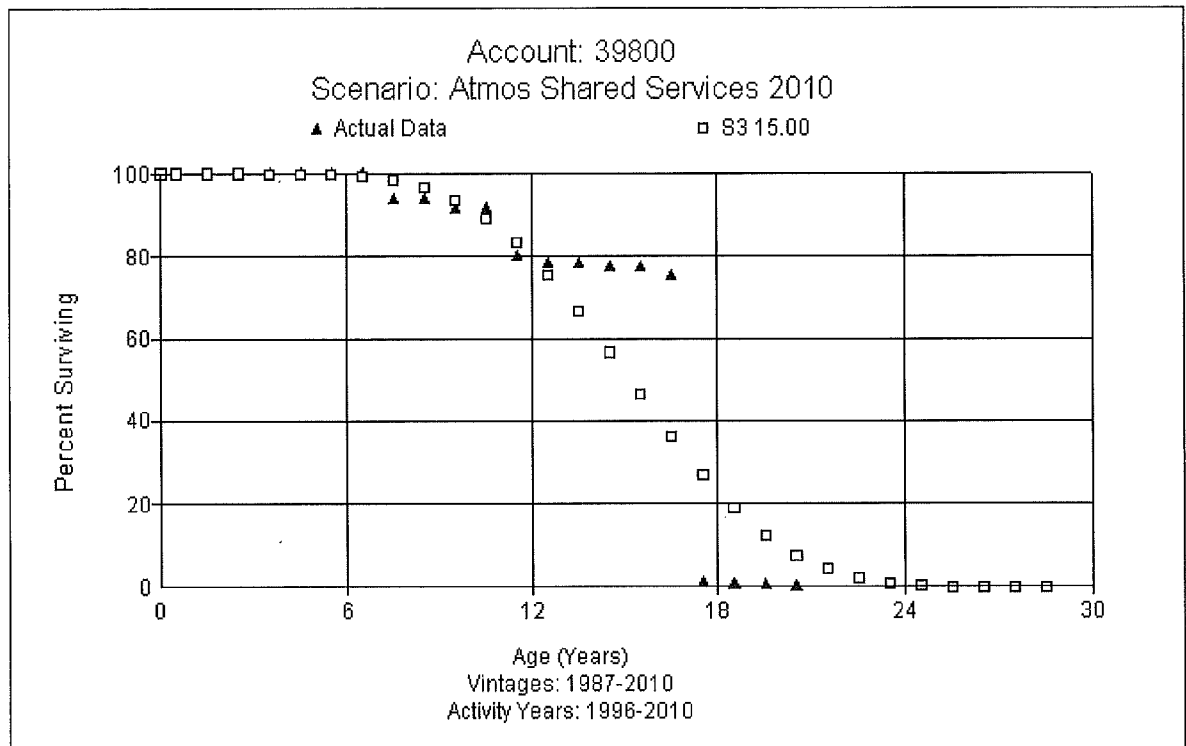
39700 – Communications Equipment

The communications equipment account includes communication, computer hardware, telephone, and radio equipment. It is used to account for the initial setup of the telephone and related telecom equipment and its attendant computer software. The balance is \$27.5 million in this account. Assets in this account have a life range between 10 and 15 years. A 15 year life with the R5 dispersion is recommended based on the fit using actuarial analysis and the type of assets and use. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. There has been no recent salvage and removal cost experience. This study recommends a zero percent net salvage rate for this account.



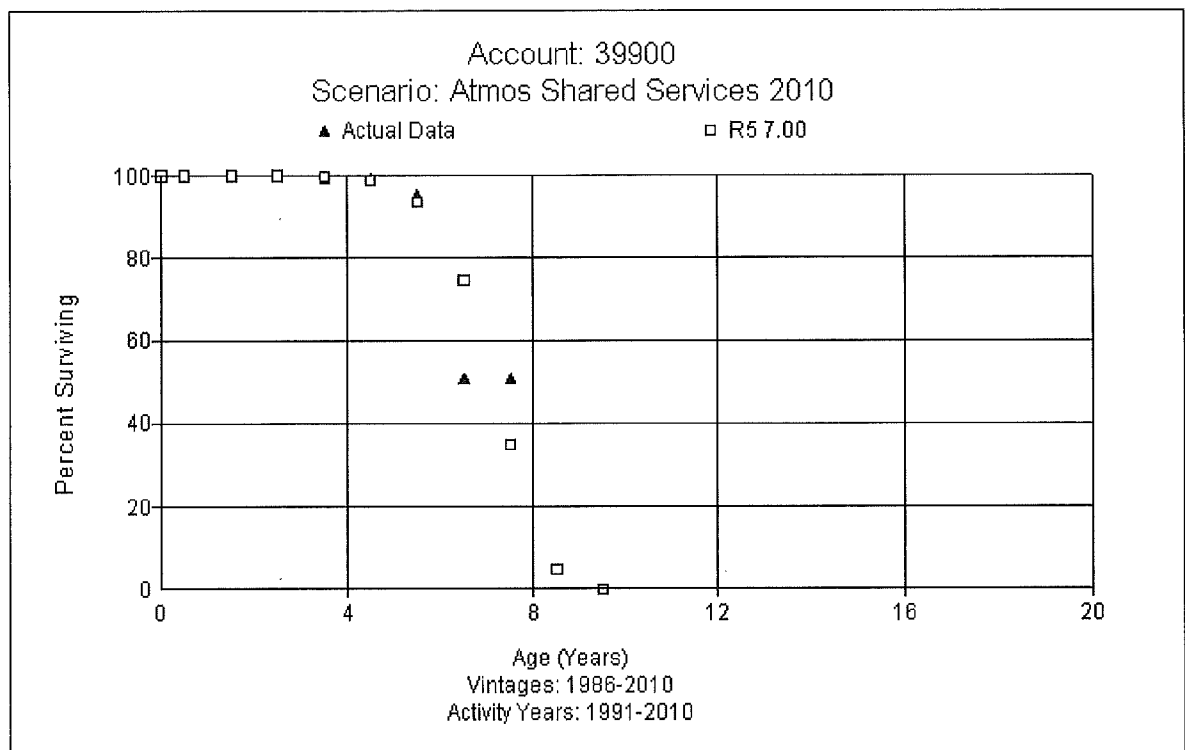
Account 39800 - Miscellaneous Equipment

This account consists of various small office equipment items, such as kitchen appliances, televisions and audio/video equipment that are not homogeneous with other plant accounts. The balance is \$214 thousand. Retirements of assets, as a group, in this account are demonstrating that a 15 year average service life with an S3 dispersion for assets in this account is appropriate. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. This study recommends a zero percent net salvage rate for this account.



Account 39900 – Other Tangible Property

The other tangible property account holds some computer hardware and communication equipment. The account balance is \$162 thousand. The average age of the investment is 1.5 years and average age of retirements is 7.34 years. The recommended life is also 7 years with the R5 dispersion for this account. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. This study recommends a zero percent net salvage rate for this account.



Account 39901 – Servers Hardware

This account consists of assets such as the HP 9000 RP 8420 servers, Oracle server, EMC DMX 3 disk array, Banner server, Markview servers and other server hardware and equipment. The balance is \$31.1 million. There have been no retirements and average age of the investment is 5.46 years. Based on discussions with Company personnel and future expectations and operation plans, this study recommends a 10 year average service life with the SQ dispersion pattern for this account. No graph is provided. No salvage or cost of removal is expected and a zero percent net salvage rate is recommended for this account.

Account 39902 – Servers Software

This account consists of assets such as the Banner, Oracle, VMWare, Appwork scheduling, Witness, Networker, and other server attendant software for billing and software licenses. The balance is \$19.6 million. There have been no retirements and the average age of investment is 5.55 years. Based on discussions with Company personnel and future expectations and operation plans, this study recommends a 10 year average service life with the SQ dispersion pattern for this account. No graph is provided. No salvage or cost of removal is expected and a zero percent net salvage rate is recommended for this account.

Account 39903 – Network Hardware

This account consists of assets related to networking activities such as routers, switches and miscellaneous networking equipment. The balance is \$4.2 million. The average age of retirements is 7.50 years and the average age of investment is 4.80 years. Based on discussions with Company personnel and future expectations and operation plans, this study recommends a 10 year average service life with the SQ dispersion, which is similar to server hardware and software accounts. No graph is provided. No salvage or cost of removal is expected and a zero percent net salvage rate is recommended for this account.

Account 39904 – CPU

This account consists of costs for an IBM 9762-R22 mainframe. The balance is \$1.1 million. This account is fully depreciated and was not analyzed in this study.

Account 39905 – Main Frame Hardware

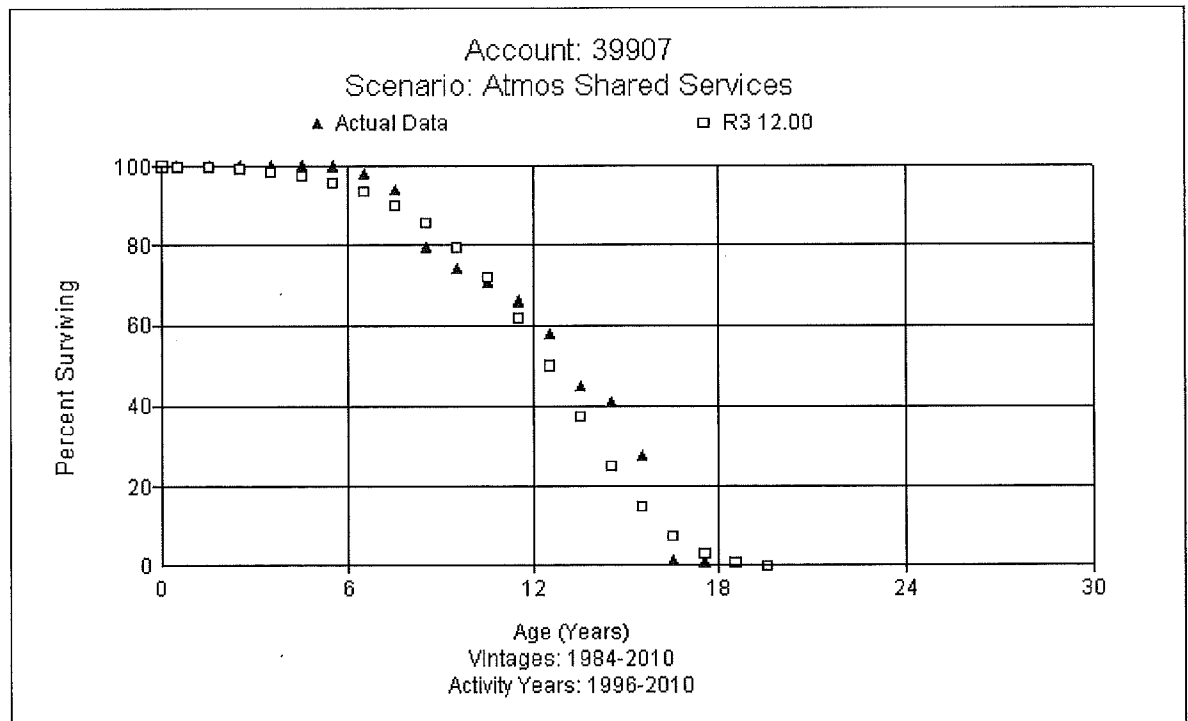
This account consists of costs for an upgraded CPU, disk storage, arrays, remote access server and other related mainframe equipment. The balance is \$1.2 million. This account is fully depreciated and was not analyzed in this study.

Account 39906 – PC Hardware

This account consists of costs for computer hardware, desktop and laptop computers, PC's for the call center, servers, and some costs associated with software licenses for PC's and servers.. The balance is \$9.6 million. The average age of investment is 5.85 years and average age of retirements is 6.55 years. The life indications in the actuarial analysis suggest a life of 9 years. The Company recently performed an inventory of these assets and note that approximately one-third of these assets should have already been retired. These retirements will be processed in 2011 and are not reflected in the data used in the life analysis. Due to the delayed retirements included in the data analysis, the observed 9 year life is not an accurate assessment of the life of these assets. However, based on discussions with Company personnel regarding current practices, future expectations and operational plans, the life of many of the remaining assets in this account will likely exceed a normal PC life expectation of 3 to 5 years. Therefore, using judgment, this study recommends a 7 year life with the S3 dispersion. Due to the processing of retirements outside of the study date, a graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve is not provided. This study recommends a zero percent net salvage rate for this account.

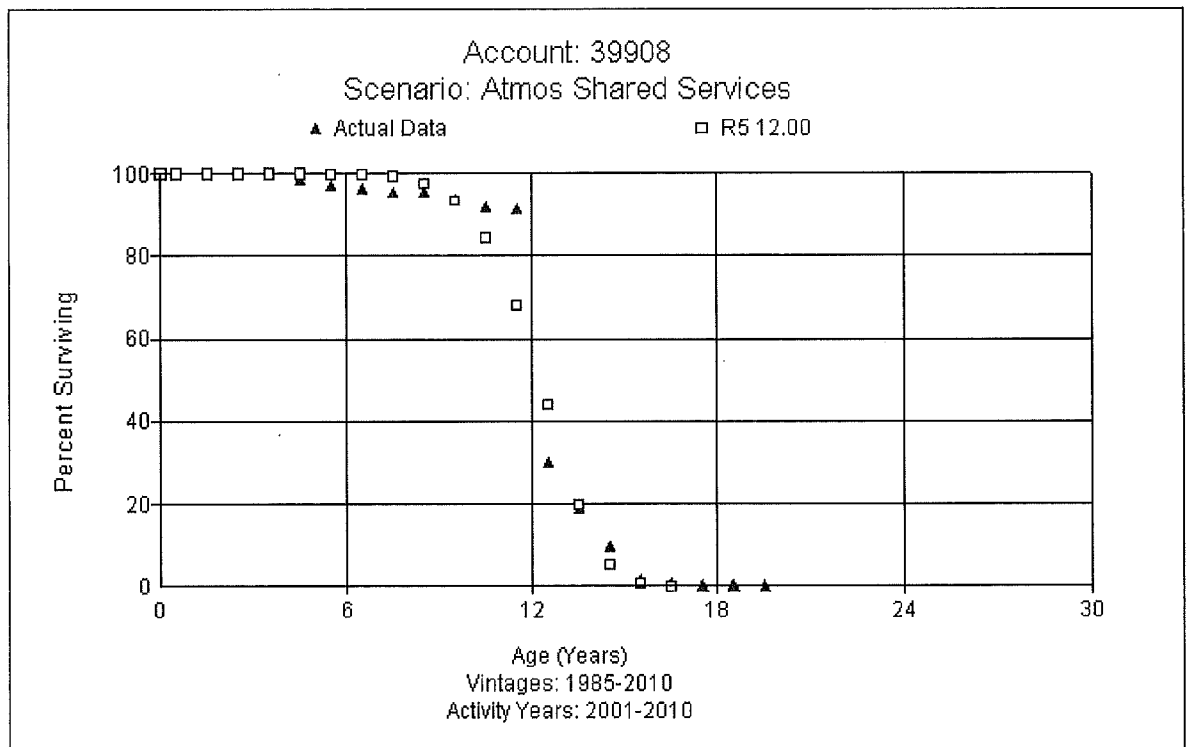
Account 39907 – PC Software

The PC software account holds booked investment and retirement activity for software assets including operating system software such as Windows 2000 or Windows XP, Microsoft Office, call center, Verizon dialer software, Genesys upgrade, MS Project and other related application software. The balance is \$4.8 million. The average age of investment is 6.54 years and average age of retirements is 9.52 years. Based on discussions with Company personnel regarding current practice, future expectations and operational plans, the life of many of the software assets in this account will likely exceed normal PC software life expectations. There has been retirement activity in this account and the life indications in the actuarial analysis confirm a longer life than what is typically expected. This study recommends using a 12 year average service life with the R3 dispersion. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. This study recommends a zero percent net salvage rate for this account.



Account 39908 – Application Software

The applications software account holds booked investment and retirement activity for software assets including billing system software, electronic mapping and training software applications, Oracle upgrade, Banner, Data Mart System, PowerPlant System, Advantage System application and the Waco Call Center IT build. The balance is \$167.7 million. The average age of investment is 7.16 years and average age of retirements is 9.05 years. Based on discussions with Company personnel and future expectations and operation plans this study recommends a 12 year average service life with the R5 dispersion for this account. A graph of the observed life table and the recommended life and curve are shown below. This study recommends a zero percent net salvage rate for this account.



Account 39909 – Main Frame Software

This account consists of costs related to Oracle, assembler language, security control package, natural VSAM and other related software. The balance is \$2.6 million. This account is fully depreciated and was not analyzed in this study.

Account 39924 – General Startup Cost

This account holds the costs related to the CIS System and supportive assets. The balance is \$23.2 million. This activity accounts for one vintage investment in 1999. This account is considered fully depreciated and was not analyzed in this study.

APPENDIX A
Annual Rate and Accrual

Appendix A

Atmos Energy Corporation - Shared Services Unit
At September 30, 2010
Depreciation Study Annual Depreciation Rates and Accruals

Account	Description	Plant Balance	Annual	
			Accrual Rate	Accrual Amount
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
39000	Structures & Improvements	8,601,087.60	3.34%	287,326.17
39009	Improvement. to Leased Premises	12,690,502.89	4.06%	514,830.04
39100	Office Furniture & Equipment	11,972,180.63	4.03%	482,120.63
39400	Tools, Shop, & Garage Equipment	83,933.49	8.88%	7,450.68
39700	Communication Equipment	27,526,596.22	5.54%	1,526,160.50
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	214,283.04	1.72%	3,675.77
39900	Other Tangible Property	162,267.97	13.84%	22,456.94
39901	Servers - Hardware	31,101,165.15	8.62%	2,680,840.65
39902	Servers - Software	19,569,699.13	8.78%	1,719,191.49
39903	Network - Hardware	4,166,729.38	8.72%	363,489.92
39906	PC Hardware	9,583,849.86	8.78%	841,383.02
39907	PC Software	4,824,824.46	6.64%	320,346.67
39908	Application Software	167,785,375.80	6.57%	11,024,831.77
	Total Depreciable Plant	<u>\$ 298,282,495.62</u>	6.64%	<u>\$ 19,794,104.25</u>

Note: The following accounts are fully depreciated and were not analyzed in the study.

39904	CPU	1,095,465.10
39905	Main Frame Hardware	1,159,964.38
39909	Mainframe Software	2,575,367.35
39924	General Startup Cost	23,172,325.96
		<u>28,003,122.79</u>
	Total Plant	<u>\$ 326,285,618.41</u>

APPENDIX B
Remaining Life Calculations

Appendix B

Atmos Energy - Shared Services
 At September 30, 2010
 Depreciation Accrual Calculation of Remaining Life
 With Reserve Reallocation

Account	Description	Plant Balance	Allocated Book Reserve	Net Salvage %	Net Salvage Amount	Unaccrued Balance	Remaining Life	Annual Accrual Amount	Accrual Rate
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
39000	Structures & Improvements	8,601,087.60	516,954.06	0	0	8,084,133.54	28.14	287,326.17	3.34%
39009	Improv. to Leased Premises	12,690,502.89	7,748,705.42	0	0	4,941,797.47	9.60	514,830.04	4.06%
39100	Office Furniture & Equipment	11,972,180.63	6,312,368.27	0	0	5,659,812.36	11.74	482,120.63	4.03%
39400	Tools, Shop, & Garage Equip.	83,933.49	13,679.16	0	0	70,254.33	9.43	7,450.68	8.88%
39700	Communication Equipment	27,526,596.22	16,038,475.59	0	0	11,488,120.63	7.53	1,526,160.50	5.54%
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	214,283.04	201,310.26	0	0	12,972.78	3.53	3,675.77	1.72%
39900	Other Tangible Property	162,267.97	42,221.51	0	0	120,046.46	5.35	22,456.94	13.84%
39901	Servers - Hardware	31,101,165.15	17,778,530.61	0	0	13,322,634.54	4.97	2,680,840.65	8.62%
39902	Servers - Software	19,569,699.13	10,898,084.75	0	0	8,671,614.38	5.04	1,719,191.49	8.78%
39903	Network - Hardware	4,166,729.38	2,066,171.06	0	0	2,100,558.32	5.78	363,489.92	8.72%
39904	CPU	1,095,465.10	1,095,465.10	0	0	-	-	-	0.00%
39905	Main Frame Hardware	1,159,964.38	1,159,964.38	0	0	-	-	-	0.00%
39906	PC Hardware	9,583,849.86	7,503,090.92	0	0	2,080,758.94	2.47	841,383.02	8.78%
39907	PC Software	4,824,824.46	3,012,312.13	0	0	1,812,512.33	5.66	320,346.67	6.64%
39908	Application Software	167,785,375.80	110,309,082.09	0	0	57,476,293.71	5.21	11,024,831.77	6.57%
39909	Mainframe Software	2,575,367.35	2,575,367.35	0	0	-	-	-	0.00%
39924	General Startup Cost	23,172,325.96	23,172,325.96	0	0	-	-	-	0.00%
	Total Depreciable Plant	326,285,618.41	210,444,108.63		-	115,841,509.78		19,794,104.25	6.07%

APPENDIX C
Mortality Characteristics

Appendix C

Atmos Energy - Shared Services Unit
At September 30, 2010
Mortality Characteristics

Account	Description	Plant Balance 9/30/2010	Proposed		
			Life	Curve	Net Salvage
39000	Structures & Improvements	8,601,087.60	40	R2	0
39009	Improv. to Leased Premises	12,690,502.89	20	R4	0
39100	Office Furniture & Equipment	11,972,180.63	22	L4	0
39400	Tools, Shop, & Garage Equip.	83,933.49	11	S6	0
39700	Communication Equipment	27,526,596.22	15	R5	0
39800	Miscellaneous Equipment	214,283.04	15	S3	0
39900	Other Tangible Property	162,267.97	7	R5	0
39901	Servers - Hardware	31,101,165.15	10	SQ	0
39902	Servers - Software	19,569,699.13	10	SQ	0
39903	Network - Hardware	4,166,729.38	10	SQ	0
39906	PC Hardware	9,583,849.86	7	S3	0
39907	PC Software	4,824,824.46	12	R3	0
39908	Application Software	167,785,375.80	12	R5	0
	Total Depreciable Plant	\$ 298,282,495.62			

Note: The following accounts are fully depreciated and were not analyzed in the study.

39904	CPU	1,095,465.10
39905	Main Frame Hardware	1,159,964.38
39909	Mainframe Software	2,575,367.35
39924	General Startup Cost	23,172,325.96
		<u>28,003,122.79</u>
	Total Plant	\$ 326,285,618.41

APPENDIX D
Net Salvage Analysis

