THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of Atmos)	
Energy Corporation for Adjustment of its)	Docket 19-ATMG-525-RTS
Natural Gas Rates in the State of Kansas.)	

PETITION TO INTERVENE

COMES NOW, the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") and petitions the Corporation Commission of the State of the Kansas ("Commission") for intervention in the above-captioned case pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1223 and K.S.A. 77-521(a). In support of its petition, CURB states and alleges as follows:

- 1. On June 28, 2019, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos Energy") filed an application with the Kansas Corporation Commission for adjustment of its natural gas rates in the State of Kansas.
 - 2. CURB is composed of five volunteer board members.¹
- 3. CURB has specific statutory authority to "represent residential and small commercial ratepayers before the state corporation commission" ² and to "function as an *official intervenor in cases* filed with the state corporation commission." CURB's authority and role as the official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission has been recognized by the Kansas Supreme Court. ⁴ CURB also has specific statutory authority to seek judicial review of Commission orders and

¹ K.S.A. 66-1222(a).

² K.S.A. 66-1223(a).

³ K.S.A. 66-1223(b).

⁴ K.S.A. 66-1223(b). See, Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board v. Kansas Corporation Comm'n, 24 Kan. App.2d 63, 68, rev. den. 262 Kan. 959 (1997) ("CURB v. KCC"). See also, Farmland Industries, Inc. v. Kansas Corp. Comm'n, 29 Kan. App.2d 1031, 1047-48, 37 P.3d 640 (2001) ("The bulk of current customers otherwise entitled to receive refunds are statutorily represented by CURB. See K.S.A. 66-1223(a)")

decisions on behalf of residential and small commercial ratepayers. 5

- 4. CURB's express statutory authority referenced above reflects the intent of the Legislature that CURB should participate in cases filed with the Commission. This fulfills the requirement under K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2) because CURB "qualifies as an intervener under any provision of law."
- 5. The residential and small commercial ratepayers whose interests CURB represents will be bound by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding. The rates paid and the services received by residential and small commercial ratepayers may be substantially affected by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding with respect to Atmos Energy's proposed changes in its natural gas rates, as described in their application.
- 6. The representation of CURB's interests in this proceeding by existing parties is inadequate. No other party to this proceeding is authorized to (a) specifically represent residential and small commercial ratepayers before the Commission, (b) function as the statutory official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission, or (c) seek judicial review of Commission orders and decisions on behalf of residential and small commercial ratepayers. While Commission Staff may have authority to investigate, evaluate, testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public* pursuant to a definition contained in a Commission regulation, ⁶ Staff does not specifically represent residential and small commercial ratepayers and is expressly denied the right to appeal Commission orders. ⁷

⁵ K.S.A. 66-1223.

⁶ Staff's authority to represent the general public is not specifically authorized by statute, but merely referenced in the definition section of Commission regulations. K.A.R. 82-1-204(q) ("Technical staff may conduct investigations and otherwise evaluate issues raised, and may testify and offer exhibits on behalf of the *general public*.") (emphasis added). ⁷ K.A.R. 82-1-204(i)(3).

proceeding which cannot be adequately represented by any other party. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2), CURB qualifies as an intervenor (a) under provision of law and (b) because the rights,

Accordingly, CURB has a substantial and vital interest in the outcome of this

duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of residential and small commercial ratepayers

may be substantially affected by this proceeding.8

8. CURB's requested intervention is in the interests of justice and will not impair the

orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings. 9

9. CURB therefore requests that the Commission grant CURB's Petition to Intervene

and participate fully in this docket, including but not limited to the right to conduct discovery, file

pleadings and testimony, present oral argument, and fully participate in any scheduled hearings.

10. In addition to undersigned counsel, please include the following CURB

representatives with all electronic notices, pleadings, and correspondence regarding this Application

as follows:

7.

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WHEREFORE, CURB respectfully requests the Commission grant its Petition for

Intervention in this Docket.

⁸ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(2).

⁹ K.S.A. 77-521(a)(3).

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERIFICATION

STATE OF KANSAS)
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE) ss:)
attorney for the Citizens' Utility Rater	age and being first duly sworn upon my oath, state that I am an eaver Board; that I have read and am familiar with the above at the statements therein are true and correct to the best of my David W. Nickel
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN	Note to before me this 2^{nd} day of July, 2019.
DELLA J. SMITH Notary Public - State of Kansas My Appt. Expires Jan. 26, 2021	Notary Public

My Commission expires: <u>01-26-2021</u>.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

19-ATMG-525-RTS

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was served by electronic service on this 2nd day of July, 2019, to the following:

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