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February 22, 2011

Mr. David A. Stawick, Secretary
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Center
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20581

RE: Further Definition of "Swap Dealer," "Security-Based Swap Dealer," "Major Swap Participant," "Major Security-Based Swap Participant" and "Eligible Contract Participant" (RIN 3235-AK65)

Dear Mr. Stawick,

This letter will advise you that the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) has reviewed the above referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act) and the Comments of Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos) which have been filed with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (Commission) in this proceeding.

MPUS is a separate agency from the Mississippi Public Service Commission and is responsible for representing the broad interests of the State of Mississippi by balancing the respective concerns of the utility customers, state agencies and public utilities.

Based on these responsibilities, MPUS is knowledgeable of Atmos' Spot-Gas Program (Program) which was initiated in 1987. This Program allows various larger customers of Atmos in Mississippi to contract directly with Atmos to allow Atmos to hedge natural gas on behalf of these customers. MPUS believes that the Spot-Gas Program of Atmos in Mississippi has been beneficial to these larger customers.

MPUS understands and supports the intent of the Commission to further define certain terms relevant and important to the enforcement of the requirements contained in the Dodd-Frank Act. However, MPUS concurs with Atmos that its Spot-Gas Program utilized in Mississippi should not be included in any of the definitions adopted by the Commission in these proceedings.

Therefore, MPUS respectfully recommends that the proposed definition of Swap Dealers in the NOPR should be modified to exempt Atmos' Spot-Gas Program in Mississippi from regulation by this Commission pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert G. Waites in cursive.

Robert G. Waites
Executive Director