



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact Ray Granado
972-855-3057

Analyst Contact Susan Giles
(972) 855-3729

Atmos Energy Says Assistance is Available to Help Pay Winter Heating Bills

Company says now is the time to apply

DALLAS (March 25, 2009) – Atmos Energy says funds are available to help the most vulnerable people in our society, the elderly, the disabled and low-income families, pay their winter heating bills.

“Some of our customers have never been in this situation before and don’t know about energy-assistance program funds,” said John Paris, president of the Atmos Energy Mid-Tex Division.

“The federal government distributed funds to state energy assistance agencies in February, and those funds will be available until April 30. Now is the time to apply if you need help with your heating bills. We want to help qualified customers obtain funds that are meant to help them, especially in this troubled economy,” Paris said.

Paris said Atmos Energy offers its customers two ways to learn if they qualify for energy assistance funds:

- Call Atmos Energy at 1-888-286-6700 to talk with an associate who can put a customer in touch with a local energy assistance agency.
- Visit www.atmosenergy.com and click first on Home Service, then on Energy Assistance to find a local energy assistance agency.

“Although energy assistance funds are a tremendous help, many people are still doing without,” added Jeff Hardgrave, Atmos Energy vice president of customer service. “We urge customers having trouble paying their natural gas bills to call us at 1-888-286-6700 for referral to agencies with funds, for making personal payment arrangements or for assistance from Atmos Energy’s Sharing the Warmth program.”

Atmos Energy’s Sharing the Warmth program combines customer donations with company contributions to help people pay their natural gas bills. The donations go directly to those in the community who qualify under the program’s guidelines. Customers can call Atmos Energy at 1-888-286-6700 or contact their local energy assistance agency directly. More information is at www.atmosenergy.com/cs/sharethewarmth.html.

About Atmos Energy

Atmos Energy Corporation, headquartered in Dallas, is the country’s largest natural gas-only distributor, serving about 3.2 million natural gas distribution customers in more than 1,600 communities in 12 states from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West. Atmos Energy also provides natural gas marketing and procurement services to industrial, commercial and municipal customers primarily in the Midwest and Southeast and manages company-owned natural gas pipeline and storage assets, including one of the largest intrastate natural gas pipeline systems in Texas. Atmos Energy is a Fortune 500 company. For more information, visit www.atmosenergy.com.