

ATMOS ENERGY CORP
Form S-8
May 07, 2010

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 7, 2010

Registration No. 333-_____

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Texas and Virginia
(State or Other Jurisdiction of

Incorporation or Organization)

1800 Three Lincoln Centre

75-1743247
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

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5430 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, Texas 75240

(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)

Atmos Energy Corporation

Retirement Savings Plan and Trust

(Full Title of the Plan)

Louis P. Gregory

Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Atmos Energy Corporation

1800 Three Lincoln Centre

5430 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, Texas 75240

(972) 934-9227

(Name, Address and Telephone Number, including Area Code of Agent for Service)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

	Proposed	Proposed		
	Maximum	Maximum	Amount of	
	Offering Price	Aggregate	Registration	
Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered (1)	Registered (2)	Per Share (3)	Offering Price (3)	Fee
Common stock, no par value	2,000,000	\$29.71 per share	\$59,420,000	\$4,236.65

- (1) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the employee benefit plan described herein.
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement covers, in addition to the number of shares of common stock, no par value, stated above, such additional shares as may be issued as a result of the antidilution provisions of the registrant's Retirement Savings Plan and Trust.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457 (subsections (c) and (h)) under the Securities Act of 1933 on the basis of the average of the high and low prices of the registrant's common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange on May 3, 2010.

PART I

The information specified in Part I of the Registration Statement is omitted from this filing in accordance with the provisions of Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the note to Part I of Form S-8. The documents containing the information specified in Part I are contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus, which have been delivered to the participants in the Retirement Savings Plan and Trust (the Plan) covered by this Registration Statement, as required by Rule 428(b)(1).

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed by Atmos Energy Corporation (Atmos Energy) or the Plan are incorporated by reference, as of their respective dates, in this registration statement:

- (1) Atmos Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009;
- (2) Atmos Energy's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended December 31, 2009 and March 31, 2010;
- (3) Atmos Energy's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) on October 15, 2009, October 28, 2009, November 12, 2009, December 1, 2009, December 16, 2009 and February 9, 2010;
- (4) The description of Atmos Energy's common stock contained in Atmos Energy's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on November 21, 2008, and any document filed that updates that description; and
- (5) The Plan's Annual Report on Form 11-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

In addition, all documents subsequently filed by Atmos Energy and the Plan pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all such securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this registration statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this registration statement.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Louis P. Gregory, who has delivered to Atmos Energy a legal opinion regarding the validity of the shares of common stock registered pursuant to this registration statement, is Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Atmos Energy. Mr. Gregory owns a total of 8,768 shares of common stock under the Plan, a portion of which Mr. Gregory purchased with matching contributions from Atmos Energy in connection with his employment at Atmos Energy. Mr. Gregory will continue to receive matching contributions from Atmos Energy to purchase shares of common stock under the Plan as long as he is employed by Atmos Energy.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Texas Business Organizations Code and the Virginia Stock Corporation Act permit, and in some cases require, corporations to indemnify directors and officers who are or have been a party or are threatened to be made a party to litigation against judgments, penalties, including excise and similar taxes, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses under certain circumstances. Article IX of our articles of incorporation and Article IX of our bylaws provide for indemnification of judgments, penalties, including excise and similar taxes, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, and the advance payment or reimbursement of such reasonable expenses to directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by law.

As authorized by Section 8.101 of the Texas Business Organizations Code, and Section 13.1-697 of the Virginia Stock Corporation Act, each of our directors and officers may be indemnified by us against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement, actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of any threatened, pending or completed legal proceedings in which he is involved by reason of the fact that he is or was a director or officer of ours if he acted in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to our best interests, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, if he had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. In each case, such indemnity shall be to the fullest extent authorized by the Texas Business Organizations Code and the Virginia Stock Corporation Act. If the director or officer is found liable for willful or intentional misconduct in the performance of his duty to us, then indemnification will not be made.

Article X of our articles of incorporation provides that no director shall be personally liable to us or our shareholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as a director except for liability:

for any breach of duty of loyalty to us or our shareholders,

for an act or omission not in good faith or which involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law,

for a transaction from which the director received an improper benefit, whether or not the benefit resulted from an action taken within the scope of the director's office,

for an act or omission for which the liability of a director is expressly provided by statute, or

for an act related to an unlawful stock repurchase or payment of a dividend.

In addition, Article IX of our articles of incorporation and Article IX of our bylaws require us to indemnify to the fullest extent authorized by law any person made or threatened to be made party to any action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of ours or serves or served at our request as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, employee, agent or similar functionary of any other enterprise.

We maintain an officers' and directors' liability insurance policy insuring officers and directors against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933. The effect of such policy is to indemnify such officers and directors against losses incurred by them while acting in such capacities.

Item 8. Exhibits.

See Index to Exhibits, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9. Undertakings.

A. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

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- (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement; *provided, however*, that the undertakings set forth in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic or current reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

B. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

C. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Dallas, State of Texas, on May 7, 2010.

ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION

By: /s/ FRED E. MEISENHEIMER
Fred E. Meisenheimer
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial
Officer and Treasurer

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Robert W. Best and Fred E. Meisenheimer, or either of them acting alone or together, as his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, for him and in his name, place, and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this registration statement, including post-effective amendments, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and all other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ ROBERT W. BEST	Chairman of the Board and CEO	May 7, 2010
Robert W. Best	(Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ KIM R. COCKLIN	President, Chief Operating Officer and Director	May 7, 2010
Kim R. Cocklin		
/s/ FRED E. MEISENHEIMER	Senior Vice President, Chief	May 7, 2010
Fred E. Meisenheimer	Financial Officer and Treasurer	
	(Principal Financial Officer)	
/s/ CHRISTOPHER T. FORSYTHE	Vice President and Controller	May 7, 2010
Christopher T. Forsythe	(Principal Accounting Officer)	
/s/ RICHARD W. CARDIN	Director	May 7, 2010
Richard W. Cardin		

/s/ RICHARD W. DOUGLAS	Director	May 7, 2010
Richard W. Douglas		
/s/ RUBEN E. ESQUIVEL	Director	May 7, 2010
Ruben E. Esquivel		
/s/ RICHARD K. GORDON	Director	May 7, 2010
Richard K. Gordon		
/s/ ROBERT C. GRABLE	Director	May 7, 2010
Robert C. Grable		
/s/ THOMAS C. MEREDITH	Director	May 7, 2010
Thomas C. Meredith		
/s/ PHILLIP E. NICHOL	Director	May 7, 2010
Phillip E. Nichol		
/s/ NANCY K. QUINN	Director	May 7, 2010
Nancy K. Quinn		
/s/ STEPHEN R. SPRINGER	Director	May 7, 2010
Stephen R. Springer		
/s/ CHARLES K. VAUGHAN	Director	May 7, 2010
Charles K. Vaughan		
/s/ RICHARD WARE II	Director	May 7, 2010
Richard Ware II		

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Qualified Retirement Plans & Trusts Committee, as administrator of the Plan, has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Dallas, State of Texas, on May 7, 2010.

QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLANS & TRUSTS
COMMITTEE

By: /s/ FRED E. MEISENHEIMER
Fred E. Meisenheimer, Chairman

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Description
4.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Atmos Energy Corporation - Texas (previously filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Atmos Energy's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 and incorporated herein by reference)
4.2	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Atmos Energy Corporation - Virginia (previously filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Atmos Energy's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 and incorporated herein by reference)
4.3	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Atmos Energy Corporation (as of February 3, 2010) (previously filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Atmos Energy's Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 3, 2010 and incorporated herein by reference)
4.4	Specimen Common Stock Certificate (Atmos Energy Corporation) (previously filed as Exhibit (4)(b) to Atmos Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1988 and incorporated herein by reference)
5.1*	Opinion of Louis P. Gregory, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Atmos Energy Corporation
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
23.2	Consent of Whitley Penn LLP
23.3**	Consent of Louis P. Gregory, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Atmos Energy Corporation
24	Power of Attorney (see signature pages of this Registration Statement)

* The registrant undertakes that it has submitted or will submit the Plan and any amendments thereto to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in a timely manner for a determination on its tax-qualified status and will make all changes required by the IRS in order to qualify the plan under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

** Exhibit 23.3 is contained in Exhibit 5.1.