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**Bob Best of Atmos Energy Elected
2007 Chairman of the American Gas Foundation
*New Research Study Priorities Set for 2007***

Washington, D.C. – Robert W. Best, chairman, president and CEO of Atmos Energy Corp., has been elected to serve as chairman of the American Gas Foundation's (AGF) board of trustees for 2007. He was elected during AGF's Board of Trustees meeting held late last year.

"We're honored to have Bob Best serve as Chairman of the Foundation in 2007. Bob is recognized as an industry leader who understands the importance of sound public policy to secure the energy future of our country," said Gary Gardner, executive director of AGF. "As chief executive at Atmos Energy and in various industry leadership roles, Bob will bring great passion to the AGF as it pursues its mission to deliver fact-based research and programs focused on the energy and environmental issues facing us today and in the future."

"During my year as chairman, the Foundation will pursue studies on the implications of the growing use of natural gas for power generation and the ability of the U.S. to compete in the global LNG supply marketplace," Best said. "AGF will build on a very successful body of work from 2006 under the outstanding leadership of immediate past Chairman Mike Warren of Energen Corp." (*Visit the AGF Web site for more information about [Recent AGF Studies and Programs.](#)*)

Best has been the chairman, president and CEO of Dallas-based Atmos Energy Corp. since March 1997. Before joining Atmos Energy, Best was senior vice president – regulated businesses for Consolidated Natural Gas Company from 1996 to 1997. He was senior vice president of Transco Energy Company and president and COO of Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp. from 1992 to 1995. He served as president and COO of Texas Gas Transmission Corp. from 1985 to 1995, as its vice president and general counsel from 1981 to 1985 and as its senior attorney from 1974 to 1981. A native of Nappanee, Indiana, Best earned an undergraduate degree from Indiana State University and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Indiana. He was the 2004 Chairman of the American Gas Association and the Natural Gas Council.

Atmos Energy Corporation is the country's largest natural-gas-only distributor, serving about 3.2 million gas utility customers in 12 states from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West. Atmos Energy's non-utility operations, which include gas marketing, pipeline and storage, and gathering systems, operate in 22 states.

Founded in 1989, the American Gas Foundation (AGF) is a 501(c)(3) organization focused on being an independent source of information research and programs on energy and environmental issues that affect public policy, with a particular emphasis on natural gas. The AGF has delivered numerous key public policy reports since 2000 and has sponsored executive level forums and events focusing on energy supply, efficiency, safety and balancing our country's energy needs with environmental priorities. For more information, please visit www.gasfoundation.org.

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