

BEST ROBERT W
Form 4
August 16, 2012

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
BEST ROBERT W

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
ATMOS ENERGY CORP [ATO]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
5430 LBJ FREEWAY, 1800 III
LINCOLN CENTRE

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
08/14/2012

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Executive Chairman

(Street)
DALLAS, TX 75240

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount or Price | | |
| Common Stock | 08/14/2012 | | M | | \$ 36,7728 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | 08/14/2012 | | S | | \$ 36,7728 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 58,747.5626 (2) | I | By Retirement Savings Plan and Trust |

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474
(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 21.23 | 08/14/2012 | | M | 62,900 | ⁽³⁾ 03/10/2013 | Common Stock 62,900 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BEST ROBERT W 5430 LBJ FREEWAY 1800 III LINCOLN CENTRE DALLAS, TX 75240 | X | | Executive Chairman | |

Signatures

/s/Suzanne Johnson
by POA

08/16/2012

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$36.66 to \$36.92, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to the Company, any security holder of the Company, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in this footnote to this Form 4.

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- (2) To update end of period holdings as of 7/31/2012 under the Atmos Energy Corporation Retirement Savings Plan and Trust (formerly known as the Atmos Energy Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Trust.)
- (3) The options vested in three equal annual installments beginning on March 11, 2004.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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