

BEST ROBERT W  
Form 4  
August 16, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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	477,191.6161	D
					(1)		
Common Stock	08/14/2012		S		\$ 36.7728	414,291.6161	D
					(1)		
Common Stock					58,747.5626		I
					(2)		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	<sup>(3)</sup> 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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