Atmos Energy to Deploy Innovative Aerial Technology in Hutchins

HUTCHINS – May 30, 2024 – Atmos Energy regularly reviews new technologies as they are brought to market and leverages state-of-the-art tools for leak detection and monitoring. As part of its commitment to enhance the safety and reliability of its system, Atmos Energy will use helicopters equipped with innovative LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to perform aerial surveys of Hutchins on Thursday, June 6, through Saturday, June 8. Atmos Energy remains focused on its vision to be the safest provider of natural gas services, and leak surveying is one of the most important safety activities it conducts. The upcoming aerial leak survey demonstrates a continued investment in safety, innovation, environmental sustainability, and the communities Atmos Energy serves.

During the aerial survey, residents will see a helicopter flying 350 to 500 feet above the ground between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day. The helicopter will move at speeds of approximately 70 miles per hour and will travel overhead in a “lawnmower” pattern, flying back and forth to cover the designated survey area.

LiDAR has been used recently in a variety of applications from agriculture and archaeology to movies and video games, but leveraging the technology for aerial leak surveys of a natural gas system is a relatively novel approach. As the helicopter progresses back and forth on its survey route, innovative sensing equipment can identify a potential leak.

The aerial survey will not cause any planned service interruptions to Atmos Energy customers, and city staff, public officials, 911 operators, and emergency responders have been advised.

About Atmos Energy
Atmos Energy Corporation, an S&P 500 company headquartered in Dallas, is the country’s largest natural gas-only distributor. We safely deliver reliable, affordable, efficient and abundant natural gas to more than 3 million distribution customers in over 1,400 communities across eight states located primarily in the South. As part of our vision to be the safest provider of natural gas services, we are modernizing our business and infrastructure while continuing to invest in safety, innovation, environmental sustainability and our communities. Atmos Energy manages proprietary pipeline and storage assets, including one of the largest intrastate natural gas pipeline systems in Texas. Find us online at http://www.atmosenergy.com, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.