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NOV 09 2011

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COMMISSION

RE: Case No. 2011-00161 and 2011-00162

Louisville Gas and Electric Company

Kentucky Utilities Company

(Environmental Cost Recovery)

Statement of ecoPower Generation

My name is Gary T. Crawford. I am the Chief Executive Officer of ecoPower Generation, a renewable energy company located at 1256 Manchester Street in Lexington, KY. I am here today to offer brief comments regarding the applications of LGE/KU for approval of environmental surcharge increases associated with new environmental rules set forth by EPA.

While it is inevitable that new rules governing the emissions from old power plants will necessitate the construction of new environmental controls and systems, an improvement in the overall emission profile of the companies could be achieved by diversifying the generation portfolio to include biomass renewable energy in the resource mix.

As you know, Kentucky is rich in natural resources typically used to generate power. The use of coal to provide the vast majority of the power consumed here has yielded some of the lowest cost energy in the U.S. While renewable biomass cannot and will not replace coal as the major source of electrical power in Kentucky, the integration of biomass into the portfolio will mitigate a portion of the environmental impact and extend the availability of coal to future generations. After all, coal (and natural gas) is a finite resource and once used, it is effectively gone forever.

The potential for biomass in Kentucky is good. Kentucky has significant sources of renewable biomass fuel feedstock. It is conservative to estimate that power generation in excess of 500 megawatts can be developed relatively easily. While this represents a small percentage of the total of nearly 20,000 megawatts of generation in our state, it does have the potential of creating an economic engine which will benefit local communities by creating jobs in locations where renewable fuels are abundant and can offset in a small way the costs of environmental surcharges represented by this case.

I urge the commission to consider the long term benefits of renewable energy as a way to extend the availability of our finite supply of coal, mitigate environmental costs, and promote an industry that is just now developing as a supplement to a robust energy future. The long term future of our children deserves a focus on energy policy that preserves the use of coal for as long as we can and promotes the use of renewable, sustainable biomass resources.

