

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the Matter of:

THE COMPLAINT OF BILLY AND BARBARA)
STINSON, GAMALIEL, KENTUCKY,) CASE NO. 7615
AGAINST TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC)
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION)

O R D E R

On April 3, 1979, the Commission received a letter from Billy and Barbara Stinson, Gamaliel, Kentucky, wherein they questioned charges for electric service provided by Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation for a bill rendered February 23, 1979.

On April 23, 1979, the Commission received a letter and meter readings from Tri-County relative to the bill in question.

The Commission Staff investigated and filed a report herein on April 27, 1979, which recommended that the Complainants, the Stinsons, should have an electrician check their portion of the service, and all appliances in the residence for fault.

The report further concluded that the reading for the bill in question indicated an excessive amount of kilowatt hours might have been used for a residence of the size of the Complainants, and that either one or a combination of things might have occurred which could explain the large amount of usage. These were:

- (a) Complainant had a malfunctioning appliance;
- (b) Increase in usage may have resulted from incorrect meter readings in previous months, thereby creating an accumulation of usage which happened to fall in the period of the billing in question.

The Commission set this matter for hearing on November 28, 1979, at 1:30 p.m., EST in the Commission's offices at Frankfort, Kentucky.

At the hearing the Complainant testified that he was puzzled at the high usage and Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation presented testimony and documentation which indicated that the

observations made in the Staff report with respect to incorrect meter readings in previous months and additional appliances, specifically heat lamps used in a hog house and a defective electric pump, could also account for the high usage for the period in question. There was further testimony that the complainant reads his own meter and submits readings to the utility; there were indications of problems with the meter readings submitted by Complainant prior to the period in question; and that no meter reading check was done by the utility until the February reading, which is the subject of this hearing.

The Commission having considered the evidence and being sufficiently advised, FINDS:

1. That Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation properly tested and found accurate the meter at the Complainants' residence.
2. That the evidence presented in the hearing demonstrates that the sharp increase in usage during the period in question is the result of submission of incorrect meter readings in previous months, and an additional load over and above that normally associated with a residence.
3. That failure of Tri-County to check the meter readings submitted by Complainant prior to the time in question, especially in view of indications of previous submission of inaccurate readings, contributed in part to the excessive accumulation at this time.
4. That all charges for electric service for the period in question are due and owing Tri-County Membership Corporation, but that accumulated late charges should not be allowed.
5. That the complainant should be allowed a reasonable time to pay for the services in question, after which time late charges may be imposed.

IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY ORDERED that all charges for service during the period in question are due and owing Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that accumulated late charges are disallowed.

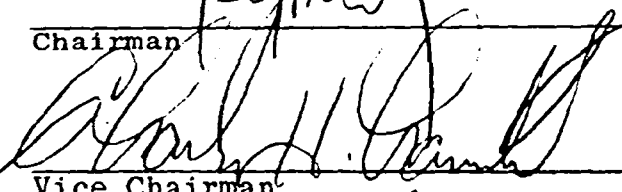
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Complainants are hereby allowed a period of six (6) months from the date of this Order in which to pay the charges due and owing Tri-County Membership Corporation for the period in question.

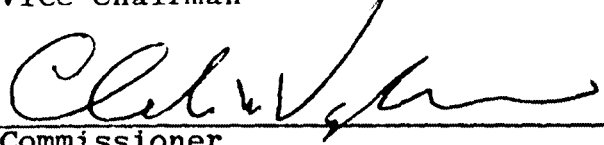
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that late payment charges shall be imposed after expiration of the designated time period in accordance with the tariff provisions of Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation if payment is not made within that time.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 8th day of February, 1980.

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Secretary