

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of:

FARMERS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE)
CORPORATION'S REQUEST FOR DEVIATION) CASE NO. 9436
FROM REGULATION 807 KAR 5:041,)
SECTION 17(1))

O R D E R

The Commission received a letter on September 3, 1985, from Farmers Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation ("Farmers"), in which it requested a deviation from 307 KAR 5:041, Section 17(1). This regulation sets forth the electric meter testing procedures to be followed by a utility and specifies the accuracy standards to which the meters must perform. The accuracy standards set forth for A.C. Watt-hour meters require the performance of three specified tests, two at 100 percent power factor and one at 50 percent power factor. Farmers has requested to be exempted from performing field tests on single-phase, self-contained residential meters at a 50 percent power factor load. Farmers would continue to perform the required field tests at 100 percent power factor load.

The Commission requested additional information and on November 4, 1985, Farmers filed a response stating that it lacked the necessary equipment to field test residential meters at a 50 percent power factor load. The estimated cost to purchase the equipment was \$2,000. All new, single-phase, self-contained residential meters would continue to be tested in Farmers'

laboratory at a 50 percent power factor load. Farmers further indicated that new residential meters do not have a simple screw adjustment for 50 percent power factor and, as a consequence, any adjustment would be a time-consuming task. Farmers has made spot checks of residential loads and the results indicate the customers' power factor to be consistently above 90 percent.

Based upon the evidence of record and being advised, the Commission is of the opinion and hereby finds that:

1. The deviation requested by Farmers will likely reduce the cost to its customers relating to its meter testing program and therefore should be granted.

2. The Commission's regulation setting forth accuracy standards for electric meters is designed to insure that customers are accurately charged for the quantity of service consumed and to provide a standard methodology for recalculating bills when the customer's meter proves to be inaccurate.

3. The Commission recognizes that pursuant to 807 KAR 5:041(1)(c) a recalculation of a bill due to an inaccurate meter is based on the results of the two tests performed at a 100 percent power factor load.

4. Farmers should continue to laboratory test at a 50 percent power factor level all new single-phase, self-contained residential electric meters to insure their accuracy.

5. Based on Farmers' residential load tests indicating power factors consistently above 90 percent and the time and cost

necessary to adjust a meter's accuracy at a 50 percent power factor load, the deviation granted herein should extend to field testing and laboratory testing of residential meters other than new meters.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

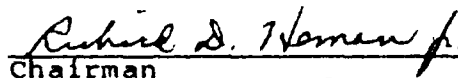
1. Farmers be and it hereby is granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:041, Section 17(1) exempting it from the performance of meter tests at a 50 percent power factor load on any single-phase, self-contained residential electric meter, except new meters.

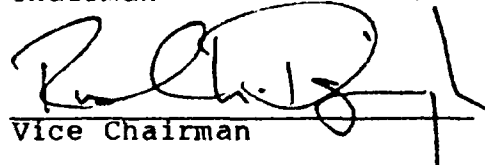
2. Farmers shall continue to comply with all meter testing requirements as set forth by the Commission for all new single-phase, self-contained residential meters and all other meters.

3. Farmers shall file new tariffs incorporating this deviation within 20 days from the date of this Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 10th day of December, 1985.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Secretary