

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY )  
 )  
 ) CASE NO. 93-057  
 )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
 ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH )  
 COMMISSION REGULATIONS )

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E"), a Kentucky corporation engaged in the generation, production, and transmission of electricity to or for the public, for compensation, for lights, heat, power, or other uses, is a utility under the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to KRS 278.010(3)(a) and 278.040(1). KRS 278.040(3) authorizes the Commission to promulgate reasonable regulations to implement the provisions of KRS Chapter 278 and to investigate the methods and practices of the utilities. Pursuant to this authority, the Commission promulgated 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, which requires each electric utility to construct and maintain its plant and facilities in accordance with good accepted engineering practices, and Section 3(1) which adopts the National Electrical Safety Code 1990 Edition and incorporates by reference the 1961 National Bureau of Standards ("NBS") Handbook 81, Section 28, subparagraphs 283, B, 2 and 283, B, 3.

Commission Staff prepared a November 12, 1992 Electrical Utility Accident Investigation report ("Accident Report"), attached hereto as Appendix A, which alleges that on May 3, 1992, Jansen

Goodman was descending the floodwall in the neighborhood of 2803 Lynn Cott Drive, Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Goodman apparently contacted a down guy wire which came loose and contacted a 13 KV conductor on an LG&E 50-foot, Class 3, pole. The guy wire became energized upon contact with the 13 KV conductor. As a result of contacting the energized guy wire, Mr. Goodman was electrocuted.

The down guy wire was electrically protected by a single insulator located close to the top of the pole. Upon coming loose, the guy wire contacted a distribution transformer located below the guy on the same pole. Because the guy wire was located above other guys as well as the transformer conductor, the guy should have been protected by two or more insulators in accord with NBS 283, B, 2 and 283, B, 3.

Based on a review of the Accident Report, and being advised, the Commission finds that a prima facie case has been made that LG&E violated 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3 and Section 3(1), by failing to install two or more guy insulators to include the exposed section of the guy between the energized conductors.

The Commission, on its own motion, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. LG&E shall appear at a hearing on March 18, 1993, at 9:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, to show cause why it should not be subject to the penalties prescribed in KRS 278.990 for the probable violation of 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3 and Section 3(1).

2. LG&E shall file within 20 days of the date of this Order a written response to the probable violation noted herein.

3. The Accident Report, attached hereto as Attachment A, shall be made a part of the record in this case.

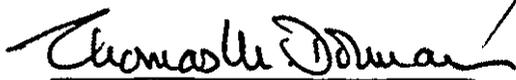
4. Any request for an informal conference shall be made in writing and filed within 20 days of the date of this Order.

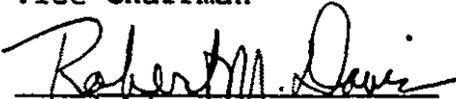
5. Any request to reschedule the hearing shall be made in writing and filed at least two business days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 19th day of February, 1993.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 93-057 DATED 2/19/93

ATTACHMENT A

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

DATE OF THIS REPORT 11/12/92 SUBMITTED BY John W. Land  
 NAME OF UTILITY Louisville Gas and Electric Company  
 ACCIDENT REPORTED BY Patrick S. Ryan  
 DATE AND TIME ACCIDENT OCCURRED 5/3/92 - Approximately  
12:01 p.m.  
 DATE & TIME UTILITY LEARNED OF ACCIDENT 5/3/92 - Approximately  
12:20 p.m.  
 DATE & TIME ACCIDENT REPORTED 5/3/92 - 1:07 p.m.  
 DATE OF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION 5/4/92  
 DATE SUMMARY WRITTEN REPORT WAS RECEIVED FROM UTILITY 5/8/92  
 PERSONS ASSISTING IN THE INVESTIGATION Pat Ryan, Larry Miller,  
Don Black, K. C. Armstrong, Mike Beavins, Ron Hasch, Dale Bruce,  
Doug Bowles, Jimmy Doyle - All LG&E employees; James Vouels  
(witness) who lives at 2803 Lynn Cott Drive, Louisville,  
Kentucky.  
 NAME OF VICTIM 1. Jansen Scott Goodman SEX M AGE 16  
 FATAL Yes NAME OF EMPLOYER: N/A  
 INJURIES Burns to hands, neck, arms - exit left big toe  
 LOCATION OF ACCIDENT SITE Behind 2803 Lynn Cott Drive near  
floodwall, Louisville, Kentucky (Jefferson County).  
 ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION Mr. James Vouels, a witness to the  
accident, stated that he was talking with Mr. Jansen S. Goodman

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)

as he sat on a manhole cover on top of the flood wall near Mr. Vouels' house at 2803 Lynn Cott Drive. Mr. Vouels stated that Mr. Goodman had gotten up and was decending the flood wall swinging a golf club as he went down. Mr. Vouels said he had looked away for just a moment when he heard a boom, looked back, and saw a ball of fire running back into the grass where Mr. Goodman was located. It is believed that Mr. Goodman contacted a down guy as he decended the flood wall. The guy wire inadvertently came loose and contacted a 13KV conductor on a 50' - class 3 pole #39809-LG&E-8529. Mr. Vouels stated that the guy wire was not loose prior to the accident but that it was not as tight as the new one which had been installed just prior to our discussion. Mr. Vouels stated that there had been some heavy equipment in this area in close proximity to the guy wire in question about a week earlier used by the Metropolitan Sewer District and its subcontractor which was determined to be the Jefferson Pipeline Company, Louisville, Kentucky.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Pat Ryan, Larry Miller, Don Black, Mike Beavins - all LG&E employees. James Vouels who lives near by was a witness to the accident. LG&E summary written report and on-site investigation by myself, John Land, Public Service Commission, Engineering Staff.

PROBABLE VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION REGULATIONS There is a probable violation concerning this incident. Commission

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)

Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3(2), requires that each electric utility construct and maintain its plant in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code. There exists a probable violation of the 1961 National Bureau of Standards ("NBS") Handbook 81, Section 28, subparagraph 283, B2 and B3, which relates to the use of guy insulator when guys are not grounded. Subparagraph 283, B2 states in part that when a guy attached to any pole carrying supply conductors over or under any overhead supply conductors of more than 300 volts to ground and where hazard would otherwise exist, two or more guy insulators shall be placed so as to include the exposed section of the guy between them as far as possible. Subparagraph 283 B3 refers to the relative location of insulators in guys located one above the other. It states that where guys in which it is necessary to install insulators are so arranged that one crosses or is above another, insulators shall be so placed that in case any guy sags down upon another the insulator will not become ineffective. The down guys at this pole #39809-LG&G-85209 did not meet the above-mentioned requirements of the 1961 NBS Code.

RECOMMENDATIONS It is recommended that the Public Service Commission consider action in accordance with KRS 278.990, due to LG&E Company's probable violation of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3(2) and the 1961 National Bureau of Standards ("NBS") Handbook 81, Section 28, subparagraph 283, B2

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)

and B3. It is also recommended that LG&E take corrective action  
to bring this structure into compliance with the NBS Handbook  
81.

CORRECTIVE ACTION Guy wire was replaced after investigation by  
LG&E personnel 5/4/92. No further action was taken at this  
time.

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)  
LINE CLEARANCES

	<u>As Measured</u>	<u>Minimum Allowed by NESC 1961 Edition</u>
<b>A. AT POINT OF ACCIDENT</b>		
Static wire to ground elevation:	<u>39' - 7"</u>	<u>15' - 0"</u>
A phase conductor to ground elevation:	<u>37' - 7"</u>	<u>15' - 0"</u>
B phase conductor to ground elevation:	<u>34' - 6"</u>	<u>15' - 0"</u>
C phase conductor to ground elevation:	<u>31' - 6"</u>	<u>15' - 0"</u>
<b>B. AT LOWEST POINT OF SPAN</b>		
Phase conductor to ground elevation:	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Neutral conductor to ground elevation:	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Communication conductor to ground elevation:	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<b>C. SPAN LENGTH</b> <u>N/A</u>		
Date the line or facilities were constructed:	<u>1954</u>	
Voltage of line or facilities:	<u>7,960 Volts phase to ground,</u> <u>13,800 Volts phase to phase.</u>	
Date last inspected by utility:	<u>3/12/91</u>	
Utility:	<u>Louisville Gas &amp; Electric Company</u>	
Date:	<u>5/4/92</u>	Time: <u>9:35 a.m.</u>
Approximate temperature:	<u>55 degrees F.</u>	

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)

Measurements made by: John Land of Public Service Commission,  
Engineering Staff and Larry Miller, Ron Hasch, Jimmy Doyle, and  
Dale Bruce of LG&E.

Submitted by:

*John Land*