

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN EXAMINATION BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE )  
COMMISSION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE )  
FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ) CASE NO. 96-521-A  
ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM NOVEMBER 1, )  
1996 TO APRIL 30, 1997 )

O R D E R

Pursuant to Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:056, Section 1(11), IT IS HEREBY  
ORDERED that:

1. Big Rivers Electric Corporation ("Big Rivers") shall appear at the Commission's offices in Frankfort, Kentucky, on October 16, 1997 at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, to submit itself to examination on the application of its fuel adjustment clause ("FAC") from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997.

2. Big Rivers shall notify its customers in writing of the date, time, place, and purpose of the hearing or shall publish such notice in accordance with 807 KAR 5:011, Section 8(5).

3. Big Rivers shall, on or before July 28, 1997, file with the Commission an original and 4 copies of the information requested in Appendix B, attached hereto and incorporated herein. Each copy shall be placed in a bound volume with each item tabbed. When a number of sheets are required for an item, each sheet should be appropriately indexed; for example, Item 1(a), Sheet 2 of 6. Big Rivers shall furnish with

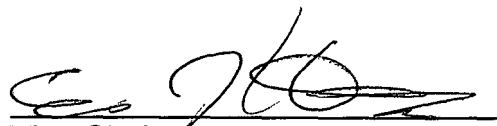
each response the name of the witness who will be available at the public hearing to respond to questions concerning each area of information requested. Careful attention shall be given to copied material to ensure its legibility.


4. The procedural schedule set forth in Appendix A shall be followed in this proceeding.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 14th day of July, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 96-521-A DATED July 14, 1997.

Big Rivers' response to the Commission's Order shall be filed  
with the Commission and served on all parties of record  
no later than ..... 07/28/97

All Intervenor requests for information shall be served on Big Rivers  
no later than ..... 08/07/97

Big Rivers' response to Intervenor requests for information shall  
be served upon the Intervenors and filed with the Commission  
no later than ..... 08/14/97

Testimony of Intervenors' witnesses, if any, shall be filed with the  
Commission in verified form no later than ..... 08/25/97

Big Rivers' requests for information to Intervenors shall be served  
upon Intervenors no later than ..... 09/04/97

Intervenors' response to Big Rivers' requests for information shall  
be served upon Big Rivers and filed with the Commission no later  
than ..... 09/11/97

Testimony of Big Rivers' witnesses, if any, shall be filed in verified  
form with the Commission no later than ..... 09/22/97

All Intervenor requests for information regarding the filed testimony of  
Big Rivers' witnesses shall be served on Big Rivers no later than ..... 10/02/97

Last day for Big Rivers to publish notice of the hearing ..... 10/09/97

Big Rivers' response to Intervenor requests for information shall  
be served upon the Intervenors and filed with the Commission  
no later than ..... 10/09/97

A formal hearing in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices  
at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, shall begin at 9:00 a.m.,  
Eastern Daylight Time, on ..... 10/16/97

## APPENDIX B

### APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 96-521-A DATED July 14, 1997.

1. List each written coal supply solicitation issued during the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997.

a. For each, provide the date of the solicitation, the type of solicitation (contract or spot), the quantities solicited, a general description of the quality of coal solicited, the time period over which deliveries were requested, and the generating unit(s) for which the coal was intended.

b. For each, state the number of vendors to whom the solicitation was sent, the number of vendors who responded, and the selected vendor. Provide the bid tabulation sheet or corresponding document which ranked the proposals. (This document should identify all vendors who made offers.) Briefly discuss the reasons for each selection.

2. List each oral coal supply solicitation issued during the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997.

a. For each, provide a brief explanation of why the solicitation was not written, the date(s) of the solicitation, the quantities solicited, a general description of the quality of coal solicited, the time period over which deliveries were requested, and the generating unit(s) for which the coal was intended.

b. For each, identify all vendors solicited and the vendor selected. Provide the tabulation sheet or other document which ranked the proposals. (This

document should identify all vendors who made offers.) Briefly discuss the reasons for each selection.

3. For the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997:
  - a. List each vendor from whom coal was purchased and the quantities and the nature of each purchase (e.g., spot or contract).
  - b. State the number of solicitations issued to each vendor listed in part (a), identified as contract or spot solicitations, and the number of proposals made by each vendor in response to the solicitations.
4. For each generating station or unit for which a separate coal pile is maintained, state for the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997 the actual amount of coal burned in tons, actual amount of coal deliveries in tons, total KWH generated, and actual capacity factor at which the plant operated.
5. List all firm power commitments for Big Rivers from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997 for (a) purchases and (b) sales. This list shall identify the electric utility, the amount of commitment in MW and the purpose of the commitment (e.g., peaking, emergency).
6. Provide a monthly billing summary for sales to all electric utilities for the period November 1, 1996 through April 30, 1997.
7. List Big Rivers' scheduled, actual, and forced outages between November 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997.
8. List all existing fuel contracts categorized as long-term (i.e., more than 1 year in length). Provide the following information for each contract:

- a. Supplier's name and address;
- b. Name and location of production facility;
- c. Date when contract executed;
- d. Duration of contract;
- e. Date(s) of each contract revision, modification or amendment;
- f. Annual tonnage requirements;
- g. Actual annual tonnage received since the contract's inception;
- h. Percent of annual requirements received during the contract's term;
- i. Base price;
- j. Total amount of price escalations to date;
- k. Current price paid for coal under the contract (i + j).

9. a. Does Big Rivers regularly compare the price of its coal purchases with those paid by other electric utilities?

b. If yes, state:

(1) How Big Rivers' prices compare with those of other utilities for the period under review.

(2) The utilities which are included in this comparison and their location.

10. What percentage of Big Rivers' coal, as of the date of this Order, is delivered by:

- a. barge?
  - b. rail?
  - c. truck?
11. a. State Big Rivers' coal inventory level in tons and in number of days' supply as of April 30, 1997.
- b. Describe the criteria used to determine number of days' supply.
  - c. Compare Big Rivers' coal inventory as of April 30, 1997 to its inventory target for that date.
  - d. If actual coal inventory exceeds inventory target by 10 days' supply, state the reasons for excessive inventory.
  - e. (1) Does Big Rivers expect any significant changes in its current coal inventory target within the next 12 months?  
(2) If yes, state the expected change and the reasons for this change.
12. a. Has Big Rivers audited any of its coal contracts during the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997?
- b. If yes, for each audited contract:
    - (1) Identify the contract.
    - (2) Identify the auditor.
    - (3) State the results of the audit.
    - (4) Describe the actions which Big Rivers took as a result of the audit.

13. a. Has Big Rivers received any customer complaints regarding its fuel adjustment clause during the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997?

b. If yes, for each complaint, state:

(1) The nature of the complaint.

(2) Big Rivers' response.

14. a. Is Big Rivers currently involved in any litigation with its current or former coal suppliers?

b. If yes, for each litigation:

(1) Identify the coal supplier.

(2) Identify the coal contract involved.

(3) State the potential liability or recovery to Big Rivers.

(4) List the issues presented.

(5) Provide a copy of the complaint or other legal pleading which initiated the litigation, if not previously filed with the Commission.

c. State the current status of all litigation with coal suppliers.

15. a. During the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997, have there been any changes to Big Rivers' written policies and procedures regarding its fuel procurement?

b. If yes,

(1) What were these changes?

(2) Provide these written policies and procedures as changed.



(3) When were these changes made?

(4) Why were they made?

16. a. Is Big Rivers aware of any violations of its policies and procedures regarding fuel procurement which occurred prior to or during the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997?

b. If yes, for each violation:

(1) Describe the violation.

(2) Describe the action(s) which Big Rivers took upon discovering the violation.

(3) Identify the person(s) who committed the violation.

17. Identify all changes in the organizational structure and personnel of the departments or divisions which are responsible for Big Rivers' fuel procurement activities which occurred during the period from November 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997.

18. a. Identify all changes which Big Rivers has made during the period under review to its maintenance and operation practices and which affect fuel usage at Big Rivers' generation facilities.

b. Describe the impact of these changes on Big Rivers' fuel usage.