

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF BIG SANDY RURAL )  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION )  
FOR DEVIATION FROM THE PROVISIONS ) CASE NO. 2005-00048  
OF 807 KAR 5:006, SECTION 6(5) AND )  
807 KAR 5:041, SECTION 15(3) )

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST DATA REQUEST TO  
BIG SANDY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Commission Staff requests that Big Sandy Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation ("Big Sandy") file the original and 5 copies of the following information with the Commission within 15 days of the date of this request, with a copy to all parties of record. Each copy of the information requested should 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. Include with each response the name of the witness who will be responsible for responding to questions relating to the information provided. Careful attention should be given to copied material to ensure its legibility. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request.

1. Provide the expected total cost of Big Sandy's automated meter reading ("AMR") meter replacement program. Include with the total cost, a breakdown between labor costs and the cost of materials. Provide all supporting calculations.
2. Explain how Big Sandy will finance its AMR meter replacement program.
3. Explain whether Big Sandy expects that the AMR meter replacement program will cause Big Sandy to increase rates sooner than would be required if the AMR program were not in place. If the need for a rate increase is expedited by the AMR meter program, explain how much sooner a rate increase will be required.
4. Explain whether Big Sandy believes that the AMR meter replacement program is cost-justified, or that non-cost factors led to the decision to proceed with the AMR program.
5. What are the expected benefits of the project?
6. If a cost justification analysis was done, provide the results of the analysis.
7. In its application, Big Sandy states that its test cycle is current and up to date with no meter in the field with a test date older than 8 months. Explain whether the 8-month test date is an error that should be corrected to state 8 years.
8. Provide the total number of meters that Big Sandy plans to replace each year until the replacement program is complete.
9. What brand of meter is being proposed?
10. Explain in detail the reason for each deviation request.
11. Assume that the requested deviation from the meter-testing requirement is denied. What impact, in terms of both time and money, would that decision have on the project? Provide all supporting calculations.

12. Assume that the requested deviation from the meter-reading requirement is denied. What impact, in terms of both time and money, would that decision have on the project? Provide all supporting calculations.

13. Assume that both requested deviations are denied. What impact, in terms of both time and money, would that decision have on the project? Provide all supporting calculations.

14. Will Big Sandy test each meter immediately upon removal, or do you propose to wait 3 years before testing them all?

15. Will you (a) retrofit current meters with AMR kits, (b) install new meters, or (c) do a combination of (a) and (b)? If you will do a combination of (a) and (b), provide a breakdown showing the number of meters in each category.

16. Will customers be able to read their own meters after an AMR is installed?



Beth O'Donnell  
Executive Director  
Public Service Commission  
P. O. Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40602

DATED: February 18, 2005

cc: Parties of Record