

A meeting of the Public Service Commission was held this date.
Present: Chairman Robert M. Coleman and Commissioners Cass R. Eiden
and H. Clay Kauffman.

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In the Matter of the

COMPLAINT OF KENTUCKY RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE CORPORATIONS FOR AN ADJUST-
MENT OF RECONNECT AND METER TEST CHARGES
OF RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES IN KEN-
TUCKY.

ADMINISTRATIVE
CASE NO. 76

ORDER

On October 2, 1951, the Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corpora-
tion, a statewide association of rural electric distribution cooperatives in
Kentucky, filed a formal application to revise rules number 10 and 28 of the
Administrative Case #5. A hearing was held in this matter on November 13,
1951.

After consideration of the evidence of record and being fully advised,
the Commission is of the opinion and finds:

(1) Rules number 10 and 28 have been in effect since April 1,
1935 and the charges stated therein are no longer fair, reasonable
or just.

(2) The cost of providing the service shown in rules 10 and 28
will vary widely with the different utilities.

(3) The charge for providing the services should compensate
for the expenses of providing the service.

(4) The charge for providing the services should be the same
for all customers of the same utility.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED That the Commission's Rule No. 10, promulgated
by Administrative Order No. 5, effective on April 1, 1935, be and it hereby is
amended and, as amended, reads as follows:

RULE 10. Discontinuance of Service for Violation of Rules, Nonpayment
of Bills and Fraudulent Use of Service.

a. No utility shall discontinue service to any customer for violation of its rules or regulations without first having diligently tried to induce the customer to comply with its rules and regulations. After such effort on the part of the utility, service may be discontinued, only after at least twenty-four hours written notice of such intention shall have been given to the customer by the utility; provided, however, that where a dangerous condition is found to exist on the customer's premises, the service may be shut off without such notice.

b. No utility shall discontinue service to any customer for nonpayment of bills (including delayed payment and service charges) without first having diligently tried to induce the customer to pay same, and after at least twenty-four hours written notice to the customer.

c. A utility may make a reasonable charge for each of the following trips:

(1) A trip to read a meter when the customer has failed to read the meter for three (3) consecutive billing periods. This pertains only to those utilities whose customers ordinarily read their own meters.

(2) A trip to collect the bill. This trip is to be made only after a prescribed date of the billing period has passed and after a written notice has been sent to the customer stating that if the bill is not paid by a certain date, the service will be disconnected.

(3) A trip to reconnect a meter that has been disconnected for nonpayment of bills or for violation of the utility's rules and regulations.

This charge, however, shall be applied uniformly throughout the entire ~~area~~ ^{area served by the} utility, shall be incorporated in the utility's rules and regulations, shall be subject to the approval of the Commission, and shall yield only enough revenue to pay the expenses incurred in rendering these services.

d. When the utility discovers that a customer has obtained service without such service having been registered on the meter in whole or in part, as evidenced by mechanical contrivances retarding meter registration, or any method which interferes with the proper metering of such service, or where a comparison of registration by an outside check meter discloses a discrepancy or irregularity of registration not due to any inherent defect in the customer's meter, the utility may immediately disconnect the service to the customer, and by written notice to the customer may require the customer at the customer's expense to install protective equipment and make proper changes in the service entrance facilities of approved type, all of which shall be done as may be required by the utility before service is restored.

In addition to the foregoing the utility may require the customer to pay to the utility the following:

(1) The cost of any and all damage to the utility's equipment due to such interference with its metering.

(2) The deficiency in revenue occasioned by such interference with the proper metering of service, for the entire period of such diversion as determined from inspection of the customer's meter record and/or the customer's admission of the duration of such interference, or any other evidence indicating the duration and extent of such interference.

(3) The cost incurred by the utility in the correction of the diversion, such as the cost of removal and installation of meters, and the cost incident to the restoring of the service.

It shall be the duty of the utility before making a service connection to a new customer to ascertain the condition of the customer's meter and the service connections thereto in order that prior fraudulent use of the service may not be attributed to the new customer whose meter and service entrance facilities may have been tampered with prior to the time that the

new customer applied for service, and the new customer shall be afforded the opportunity to be present at such inspection. The utility will not be required to render service to such customer until the defects, if any, in the service entrance facilities shall have been corrected.

e. A utility shall not be required to furnish service at any premises to any applicant for such service when such applicant at the time of application is indebted to the utility for similar service furnished either at same or at other premises, until such applicant shall have paid such indebtedness to the utility.

f. The utility shall, at all reasonable times, have access to meters, service connections, and other property owned by it on customer's premises for the purpose of reading meters, inspection, maintenance and operation. Neglect or refusal on the part of a customer to provide reasonable access to the premises for the above purposes shall be deemed to be sufficient cause for discontinuance of service on the part of the utility.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the Commission's Rule No. 28, effective on April 1, 1935, be and it hereby is amended and, as amended, reads as follows:

RULE 28. Request Test.

Each utility shall make a test of any electric meter upon written request from any customer provided such request is not made more frequently than once each twelve (12) months. The customer shall be given the opportunity of being present at such request test. If such test shows that the meter was not more than 2% fast, the utility may make a reasonable charge for the test. The amount of such charge shall compensate for the expenses incurred, and shall be set out in the utility's rules and regulations filed with the Commission, and subject to the approval of the Commission, and shall be applied uniformly throughout the entire area served by the utility.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 6th day of May, 1952.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF KENTUCKY

Ed M. Coleman
Chairman

Carl R. Walden
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Tracy B. Kilian
Secretary

Helay Kaufman
Commissioner

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