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Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Chairman

James W. Gardner  
Vice Chairman

Linda Breathitt  
Commissioner

September 19, 2014

PARTIES OF RECORD

RE: Case No. 2014-00198  
Tracy Mathis, Complainant; Louisville Gas and Electric Company, Defendant

Attached is a copy of a memorandum which is being filed in the record of the above-referenced case. If you have any comments you would like to make regarding the contents of the memorandum, please do so within five days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Vinsel, Staff Attorney, at (502) 782-2582.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Derouen".

Jeff Derouen  
Executive Director

NJV/chh  
Attachment

## INTRA-AGENCY MEMORANDUM

### KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**TO:** Case File No. 2014-00198

**FROM:** Richard G. Raff  
General Counsel

**DATE:** September 19, 2014

**RE:** Tracy Mathis v. Louisville Gas and Electric Company

On September 10, 2014, Commission Staff held an informal conference in this matter for the purpose of determining the height and location of the service drop at issue and determining whether raising the service wire has satisfied the complaint. Attending the conference were:

Richard Raff	-	Commission Staff
Jeff Johnson	-	Commission Staff
Shannon Montgomery	-	Louisville Gas and Electric Co.
John Wolfe	-	Louisville Gas and Electric Co.
Allyson Sturgeon	-	Louisville Gas and Electric Co.
Rick Lovekamp	-	Louisville Gas and Electric Co.
Sheri Gardner	-	Louisville Gas and Electric Co.
Greg Mathis (by telephone)	-	Spouse of Complainant

Greg Mathis stated that Louisville Gas and Electric Company's ("LG&E") action to raise the service wire that runs diagonally across his property does not satisfy the complaint. Mr. Mathis expressed his opinion that the safety issue remains. Mr. Mathis believes that the service wire was tightened when it was raised and that the act of tightening the wire increases the likelihood the wire will snap and fall into his yard.

LG&E discussed the options that they presented to Mr. and Mrs. Mathis to resolve the complaint: 1) raise the service wire that runs across the Mathis property to the neighbor's home; 2) place a new pole in the road right-of-way in the Mathis's front yard close to the driveway; 3) place the neighbor's service underground. The second option would result in two poles in the Mathis's front yard, which is unacceptable to Mr. Mathis for aesthetic reasons. The third option would require the neighbor to pay the difference between the cost of installing underground service, less an overhead credit; the neighbor objects to this option. LG&E, on their own initiative, raised the service wire. The current overhead clearance of the service wire, at the lowest point, is fourteen feet, four inches. Before it was raised, the overhead clearance was eleven feet, four inches.

Staff questioned whether the existing service installation met an exception under the National Electrical Safety Code's ("NESC") vertical clearance requirement of sixteen feet above driveways. The existing service currently crosses the driveway with a low point of 14 feet, one inch. The current NESC guidelines permit a deviation where the height of a residential building does not permit the service drop to meet the required values. Staff questioned whether the exception provided for in the NESC was applicable based on the photographs provided by LG&E of the driveway and service drop to the neighbor's house.

In response, LG&E contends that the service wire complies with NESC requirements that were in effect when the service was installed in 1994. LG&E explained that, in 1994, the pole was moved from the driveway-side of the property to its current location at the request of the then-owner. When the pole was moved, the service wire was installed in the current configuration.

Staff also requested information concerning the type of eyebolt used in the service drop at the neighbor's house and whether the service drop could be raised to comply with the sixteen foot vertical driveway clearance required by NESC.

In response to Staff's questions, LG&E will provide a copy of the NESC requirements in which LG&E contends it is in compliance. LG&E also agreed to provide further information regarding the service attachment and service drop located on the neighbor's property.

cc: Parties of Record

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

TRACY MATHIS	)	
COMPLAINANT	)	CASE NO.
	)	2014-001 <del>1</del>
VS.	)	198
	)	
LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY	)	
DEFENDANT	)	

September 10, 2014

Please sign in:

NAME

REPRESENTING

RICHARD RAFF

LEGAL PSC

Shannon Montgomery

LG&E

John Wolfe

LG&E

Allyson Sturgeon

LG&E

RICK LOVEKAMP

LG&E

Sheri Gardner

LG&E

JEFF JOHNSON

PSC ENG

Greg Mathis (by phone)

Customer

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