# COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF LICKING VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION FOR A GENERAL RATE INCREASE

CASE NO. 2016-00174

# NOTICE OF FILING

Notice is given to all parties that the following materials have been filed into the

record of this proceeding:

- The digital video recording of the evidentiary hearing conducted on January 24, 2017 in this proceeding;

- Certification of the accuracy and correctness of the digital video recording;

- A written log listing, *inter alia*, the date and time of where each witness' testimony begins and ends on the digital video recording of the evidentiary hearing conducted on January 24, 2017.

A copy of this Notice, the certification of the digital video record, exhibit list, and

hearing log have been electronically served upon all persons listed at the end of this

Notice. Parties desiring an electronic copy of the digital video recording of the hearing in

Windows Media format may download a copy at

http://www.psc.ky.gov/av\_broadcast/2016-00174/2016-00174\_24Jan17\_Inter.asx.

Parties wishing an annotated digital video recording may submit a written request by electronic mail to <u>pscfilings@ky.gov</u>. A minimal fee will be assessed for a copy of this recording.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.

Jalina R. Mathews

Talina R. Mathews Executive Director Public Service Commission of Kentucky

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In the Matter of:

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#### CERTIFICATE

I, Pamela Hughes, hereby certify that:

1. The attached DVD contains a digital recording of the Hearing conducted in the above-styled proceeding on January 24, 2017. Hearing Log and Witness List are included with the recording on January 24, 2017.

2. I am responsible for the preparation of the digital recording.

3. The digital recording accurately and correctly depicts the Hearing of January 24, 2017.

4. The "Hearing Log" attached to this Certificate accurately and correctly states the events that occurred at the Hearing of January 24, 2017, and the time at which each occurred.

Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

Pamela Hughes, Notary Public State at Large My Commission Expires: April 22, 2019

# Session Report - Detail

# 2016-00174 24Jan17

LIcking Valley RECC

Date:	Туре:	Location:	Department:	
1/24/2017	General Rates	Hearing Room 1	Hearing Room 1 (HR 1)	
Judges Beh Ci	coro: Dan Logedon: Michael	Cohmitt		

Judge: Bob Cicero; Dan Logsdon; Michael Schmitt Witness: James R Adkins; Kerry Howard Clerk: Pam Hughes

Log Event	
Session Started	
Session Paused	
Session Resumed	
Chairman Schmitt	
Note: Hughes, Pam	Preliminary remarks and introductions of Commissioners.
Introductions of Counsel	
Note: Hughes, Pam	Gregory Allen for Licking Valley RECC - Quang Nguyen for PSC
Chairman Schmitt	
Note: Hughes, Pam	Notice has been filed
Note: Hughes, Pam	Asked for Confidential material- no material
Chairman Schmitt asks for pend	ding motions
Note: Hughes, Pam	No pending motions.
Chairman Schmitt asks for Publ	ic Comments
Note: Hughes, Pam	No public comments
Chairman asks for exhibits	
Note: Hughes, Pam	No exhibits
Atty Allen-calls Kerry Howard to	o the stand
Note: Hughes, Pam	Is sworn in by Chairman
Atty Allen- direct exam of Witn	less Howard
Note: Hughes, Pam	Adopts his testimony with no changes
Note: Hughes, Pam	Kerry Howard -CEO of Licking Valley RECC
Atty Nguyen cross-exam of With	ness Howard
Note: Hughes, Pam	Referencing that Licking Valley did not meet its RUS mortgage
	requirements in 2015.
Atty Nguyen cross-exam of With	ness Howard
Note: Hughes, Pam	In calendar years of 2011-2014 with its tier with respect to RUS
	mortgage covenants
Note: Hughes, Pam	Asking about the 2016 numbers and figure of operating tier befor
	December 2016.
	Questions while Licking Valley hasn't been able to meet its tier
	Load growth decline maybe in 5% range and losing members.
Note: Hughes, Pam	Has Licking Valley been contacted by RUS for failing to meet
	requirements.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
-	When did RUS contact Licking Valley about the 2015 tier?
Note: Hughes, Pam	Did Licking Valley file a written response to RUSplease provide the Commission
	Session Started Session Paused Session Resumed Chairman Schmitt Note: Hughes, Pam Introductions of Counsel Note: Hughes, Pam Chairman Schmitt Note: Hughes, Pam Chairman Schmitt asks for pene Note: Hughes, Pam Chairman Schmitt asks for pene Note: Hughes, Pam Chairman Schmitt asks for Publ Note: Hughes, Pam Chairman asks for exhibits Note: Hughes, Pam Atty Allen-calls Kerry Howard to Note: Hughes, Pam Atty Allen- direct exam of With Note: Hughes, Pam Atty Allen- direct exam of With Note: Hughes, Pam Atty Nguyen cross-exam of With Note: Hughes, Pam

9:13:02 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	What are the tier and operating tier that Licking Valley is supposed to meet?
9:13:31 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Will the failure trigger any significant consequences from RUS
	Note: Hughes, Pam	With Licking Valleynot meeting its tier requiremets in 2016 as well, what does Licking Valley expect RUS response to be.
9:14:57 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Has Licking Valley ever in the past not met its RUS requirements
9:15:23 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Could have Licking Valley come in earlier for a rate increase to attempted to meet the requirements?
	Note: Hughes, Pam	When notified that the rate increase was needed?
9:17:23 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Post Hearing DR_ provide communications and board minutes that touch on the 2015 failure to meet 2015 requirements and any communications about rate increase.
9:18:37 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Post Hearing DR_ Provide the RUS letter concerning 2015
9:19:29 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Post Hearing DR- Identify the types of measurs that have been implemented over past 5 years for savings. Years 2011-2016
	Note: Hughes, Pam	In Howard testimony about striving to minimize its expenses and has implemented any cost containment programs and has that caused a significant imapct.
9:21:58 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Refer to exhibit 19 of the application concerning Capital credits. Page 1 of 3. Has Licking Valley never refunded capital credits and reason?
9:24:23 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Refer to Licking Valley's response to Staff's 2nd request for information, Item 2.(C). Concerning Mercury vapor or metal halide lights.
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to when mercury vapor being phased out. LV switched 12 to 18 months ago to LED light
9:27:35 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Asks that Licking Valley revise theirTariff to say no longer supplying mercury or halide lighting.
9:28:21 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referencing Licking Valley's prepaid program. How many participants are currently enrolled? Exhibit 15 to application states a number, current is close to 130.
9:29:59 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	and a second from the second se
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to a cap set on the number of participants in the prepaid program.
9:30:20 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ess Howard
	Note: Hughes, Pam	How is this prepaid program benefitting the customers? Average is 10% average savings.
	Note: Hughes, Pam	How is Licking Valley promotiong the prepaid program to its customers
9:31:35 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Licking Valleys request to implement updated AMI system, what is the update on that?
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Customer imformation kept to contact?

9:32:37 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	am of Witness Howard	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Regarding LED lighting, Is Licking Valley waiting to switch those customers out on an as needed basis?	
9:34:01 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Howard	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Refer to Staff's 4th DR, Item 3. Employee contribution 10.37% rate. Has Licking Valley considered raising that rate?	
9:35:31 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referencing Insurance benefits to employees. Single coverage paid by Licking Valley- 100 % and family plan members pay 10.37%	
9:36:38 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Howard	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referencing RUS problems and cost cutting measures.	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Health care benefits to employees	
9:39:39 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Howard	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referencing why Licking Valley is here for rate increase and why the board is not making cost benefit savings concerning salaries and insurance benefits.	
9:41:26 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Howard	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to Dispatch costs and what that is.	
9:42:30 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Howard	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Questions about the employee contracts and the dispatch contracts.	
9:43:10 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to salaries paid to employees.	
9:44:27 AM	Comm. Logsdon cross exam of W		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to Vacation payouts to employees. After year 1 they get	
		80 hours. 40 hours can be transferred into the next quarter and if not able to take vacation then they pay them out that 40 hours or	
0.47.12 AM	Commentaria and a second a second a fill	whatever they have left.	
9:47:12 AM	Comm. Logsdon cross exam of W		
0.40.40.414	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to cutting expenses.	
9:48:48 AM	Comm. Logsdon cross exam of W		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to overtime paid and cost benefit analysis to cut costs.	
0.50.21 444	Note: Hughes, Pam	Post Hearing Data Request _ contract from G&S	
9:50:31 AM	Comm. Logsdon cross exam of W Note: Hughes, Pam	Post Hearing Data Request -provide money from KEAC every year.	
9:51:15 AM	Witness Howard excused	Tost hearing bata hequest provide money norm here every year	
9:51:25 AM	Atty Allen calls Witness Adkins to	the stand	
5.51.25 AM	Note: Hughes, Pam	Chairman swears Witness in	
9:52:10 AM	Atty Allen- direct exam of Witnes		
3.32.10 AM	Note: Hughes, Pam	James Adkins -Self-employed Consultant. Adopts his testimony with	
	Note: Hughes, Fam	no changes.	
9:53:32 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne		
5.55.52 AM	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to the rate case and the tier for Licking Valley and not met	
	Note: Hughes, Fam	it in 2015. Application, exhibit k, page 6 of 7. Listing of the tiers.	
9:56:42 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne		
3.30.42 AM	Note: Hughes, Pam	Met it's tier requirement but not its operating tier requirement.	
	Note: hughes, Pan	Exhibit S of the test year Oct. 2015. Page 1 of 4 - operating tier -	
		5.78 should not have been in this exhibit.	
9:59:21 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to tier requirement in 2014, and previous years.	
10:00:42 AM	Post Hearing Data Request		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Provide the calculations as well as result for 2011-2016 of its	
10.02.1E AM	Part Haaring Data Paguast	operating tier.	
10:02:15 AM	Post Hearing Data Request	In addition, DHDD for calendar year for 2016 to the enception	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	In addition- PHDR-for calendar year for 2016 to the operating calulation as close as possible.	

10:03:19 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	tness Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	What colateral is provided to RUS for the loans.	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Licking Valley failed to meet the RUS, what consequences will this trigger.	
10:05:00 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to Adkins direct testimony deteriating tier. 2.5 would help Licking Valley to build equity and increase their margins.	
10:05:59 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Would Licking Valley use any margin to equity, and what the operating tier would be if granted the 2.5 a year.	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Would an increase of 2.0 also help to increase it's equity?	
10:09:54 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Rationality of the Commission's granting the 205 in the late 1980's	
10:10:53 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Questions how would Licking Valley's decline in equity impact them.	
10:11:50 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Refers to RUS having any guidelines about what equity they want Co-Ops to have.	
10:12:48 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to the equity level that Licking Valley hoping to achieve.	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Licking Valley's current equity ratioexhibit K of the application. Page 7, test year was 40%, without the G&T.	
10:15:21 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Exhibit Y of the Application, unnumbered page 2. Account of long term debt -224.14. Provide as a Post Hearing Data Request.	
10:17:25 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Last page of Exhibit Y- interest income explanation.	
10:18:54 AM	Post Hearing Data Request		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Licking Valley is to provide account 224.14 and 419 interest income as of Dec 31, 2015 and Dec. 31. 2016.	
10:19:59 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne		
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Previous page Exhibit Y- other interests. What would interest be for the \$6,939	
10:23:04 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Rate design component- explain what Licking Valley is proposing to rate design and revenue allocation proposed and the general direction.	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Primary reason is to get closer to cost of consumer related costs.	
10:26:57 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Increase from 9.32 to 15.00 is 61 % increase. How does this keep in the principal of gradualism.	
10:28:23 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Question if Commission proposed a lower increase, how should that be implemented by Licking Valley.	
10:29:03 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ass Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Allocations of rate classes, If given a bigger increase would Licking Valley propose to allocate propotionately.	
10:30:04 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ass Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Refers to any Analysis that has been done.	
10:30:17 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Any review to determine if their has been studies on impact on low income customers of rate increases.	

10:31:59 AM	Atty Nguyen cross-exam of Witne	ss Adkins
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Based on various Licking Valley rate classes, return on Rate Base. Security light rate class, exhibit R to the application has been revised. Page 38, Negative return 8.1%.
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Questions why did Licking Valley not increase the allocation for the security lighting.
10:38:39 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Adkins
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to proposed rate increase. Disparity on large power rate and residential rate.
10:42:22 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Adkins
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Questions how long Witness Adkins has consulted for Licking Valley.
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to Equity and revenues and expense control. Controllable expenses need to be looked at.
10:45:36 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Adkins
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to the cost containment measures that have been put in place.
10:47:22 AM	VC Cicero cross exam of Witness	Adkins
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to Equity asset ratio and what Witness recommends it goes to. Witness is recommending 40%
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Referring to weather impact on profits.
10:48:51 AM	Atty Nguyen asks for Post Hearing	Data Request
	Note: Hughes, Pam	Equity asset ratio for calendar year 2016.
10:49:41 AM	Witness Adkins dismissed	
10:49:54 AM	Post Hearing Data Requests	
	Note: Hughes, Pam	PHDR will be presented to Atty Allen by Commission Staff no later than Friday, January 27, 2017, and Atty Allen has until Feb. 7, 2017 to respond.
10:50:34 AM	Hearing Adjourned	
10:51:02 AM	Session Paused	
10:58:21 AM	Session Ended	

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