

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comments for Case: 2023-00159 - Kentucky Power Company  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 10:19:00 AM

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Case No. 2023-00159

Thank you for your comments on the application of Kentucky Power Company. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2023-00159, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2023-00159 \(ky.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** KY Public Service Commission Public Comments <psc.comment@ky.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 11:28 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Case: 2023-00159 - Kentucky Power Company

Public Comments for Case 2023-00159 submitted by [REDACTED] on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 11:27 PM

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Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]  
Home phone: [REDACTED]

Comments: I am a lifelong resident of Eastern Kentucky and strongly request the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) deny in whole the rate increase requested by Kentucky Power(KPCO), Case # 2023-00159, on the following grounds: 1. KPCO was granted a substantial rate increase in 2021 that increased the KWH rate for residential customers to \$.01628. The average rate for the rest of the Commonwealth is currently \$.012.93 per KWH. If the PSC allows this rate increase of 18.30%, as requested by KPCO, the resulting KWH rate that residents of KPCO's Eastern KY rate base will be charged approximately \$.01921 per KWH when enacted. 2. KPCO is justifying their rate increase based upon losing 10,000 residential customers over the past 10 years from their rate base along with the loss of several large commercial customers. I worked over 27 years in the Eastern Kentucky coal industry in both management and coal sales. When I was involved in coal sales, KPCO's Big Sandy Power Plant located near Louisa, KY was KPCO's main source of generation and the #2 economic dispatched plant in the whole American Electric Power system. Instead of installing Sulfur Dioxide scrubbers to comply with the Clean Air Act and keep the Big Sandy Plant operational, KPCO shut Unit 2 down in 2015 and converted Unit 1 to natural gas and entered into an agreement to purchase electricity from the AEP owned Mitchell Plant located near Moundsville, WV, which

ironically is almost the same age as Unit 1 at the Big Sandy Plant. The loss of the Big Sandy Plant as an outlet for Eastern KY Coal production was substantial and accounts for many lost jobs in coal the industry and a substantial number these displaced coal mining employees are o doubt a large portion of the 10,000 residential customers that KPCO claims lost. KPCO claims to be a "Leader in Economic Development in Eastern Kentucky" and "Committed to working together to grow and improve our Region", in an email sent to its customers. Already having the highest electric rates in the Commonwealth in 2023 and asking for an 18.3% increase in 2024 is an affront to the good people and businesses located in their service area.. This rate request proves the KPCO is not interested in economic growth in Eastern Kentucky and request the PSC to challenge KPCO to explain how having exorbitant electric rates will entice any prospective industry to locate to our area. 3. KPCO states that if the rate increase is granted they will expand their tree clearing for increased reliability. Power line right of way clearing is routine maintenance and KPCO's history of waiting until weather catastrophe to clear right of way does not justify a rate increase. . 4. the most troubling item that KPCO is requesting in their rate increase is the right to "Securitize" assets. This is nothing more than requesting the PSC to allow them to place a second mortgage on these assets and pass the cost of this refinancing on to the backs of their rate payers. Also in their initial release, KPCO stated that proceeds from this "Securitization" will be used partly to pay dividends and "enhance" share holders. In summary, KPCO as noted in their correspondence, is allowed a return on investment of 9.00% and they state that the have only been allowed approximately 3.00% return due to the Kentucky PSC disallowing unjustified claims. Obviously KPCO has not had their way with the PSC, recently, and I congratulate the PSC for keeping them in check and I hope, pray and trust that the PSC will deny this rate increase request by KPCO in its entirety. Approval of this rate request will result in irreparable harm to both residential and commercial rate payers in Eastern Kentucky and will render economic development and the recruitment of new industry with its good paying jobs, an impossibility. The good people of Eastern Kentucky need the PSC to do the right thing and deny the KPCO rate increase request.

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