

Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2025-00113
Response Monday, October 13, 2025

Thank you for your comments. 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, 2025-00113 in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at: [View Case Filings for: 2025-00113 \(ky.gov\)](#).

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Received through Public Comments

Friday, October 10, 2025

From: Ronald Mawby
City: Lexington
State: Kentucky
Zip: 40502

Comments:
Public Service Commission
Comments on Case Number 2025-00113

Dear Public Service Commission:

I am writing to ask that you reject multiple proposals in KU's application for changed electricity rates. The PSC, in regulating a monopoly utility, must stand in for the lack of market constraints, and must recognize that the utility is providing an essential public service that no one can live without. That is, customers are doubly without choice: they cannot survive without the service, and they have no choice in who provides it. So the PSC plays a significant role in protecting customers. In doing so there are several modern realities that must be considered.

- a. Many customers are financially insecure, find energy bills unaffordable, and are consequently energy insecure.
- b. Fossil fuels via air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that are disrupting our climate, pose a major threat to our health, food systems, housing, infrastructure, economy and personal safety. Public Service Commissioners must recognize that the climate crisis can no longer be ignored in the operation of our energy system.
- c. Distributed, clean, energy resources are now available that compete in effectiveness and price with traditional fuel sources.

KU's plans and current rate case remain oblivious to these realities.

The proposed rate increase threatens energy security and safety:

1. With the proposed increases in both the fixed basic service charge, and the energy charge, already high energy burdens will increase for low-income customers. People may have to choose between paying energy, food, housing, and medical bills. Such financial instability, potentially leading to disconnections, or housing eviction, is not safe.
2. The especially large increase (20%!) in the basic service charge (which appears to be nothing more than a subsidy for the company) penalizes low energy users who are heavily

represented by low-income and multifamily households.

3. KU's proposed rate increase is not accompanied by significant and effective plans for bill pay support or for expanded energy efficiency programs.

The large and disproportionate proposed increase in the Basic Service Charge threatens energy conservation and investment in energy efficiency. No matter how much a customer invests in energy efficiency, and no matter how much they work to reduce usage, their bills increase anyway. This is the opposite of how rates should be designed.

The proposed changes to net metering threaten rooftop solar. KU/LGE's proposal to cut their net metering credit by half is blatantly designed to discourage rooftop solar. Rates should not be used as an anti-competitive tool. By drastically increasing the "pay-back period" and worsening the economics for purchasing solar panels, solar will become unaffordable for municipal, business, non-profit and residential customers. Furthermore, by reducing the demand for solar, the local rooftop solar business sector will inevitably shrink, resulting in loss of high paying jobs, and in less competition and potentially higher prices for those who still wish to install such projects. KU/LGE fail to acknowledge the widely recognized benefits of rooftop solar for its own operations and for all customers. These benefits include not only avoided fuel costs, but also avoided risks of fossil-fuel price volatility, shaving of peak demand and reducing the need for new fossil fuel generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure. Distributed solar can also support system reliability and resilience of the grid.

KU is derelict in its obligation to keep up with changing technology. It is especially enraging that a company with the financial resources and potential expertise of KU/LGE appears to be ignoring new technologies and investments that would integrate rooftop solar, storage, expanded energy efficiency and demand response in ways that can flexibly supply energy when and where it is needed. These technologies and investments such as Virtual Power Plants and Distributed Capacity Procurement could reduce the need for more costly, polluting, infrastructure, help with grid reliability and grid resilience, reduce customer costs and ultimately keep us healthy and safe. The idea that KU would seek a large increase in their ROE when they are so outdated in their operations is particularly galling.

The public interest is not served by an energy system based almost entirely on fossil fuels, and we shouldn't keep paying more for it. Costs of fossil fuel impacts have long been paid for by citizens: we pay as victims of pollution and disaster, we pay as taxpayers, and now we pay as utility customers. Key reasons given for the requested rate increase are the need to shore about distribution and transmission systems in the face of increased extreme weather events. What is wrong with this picture? We cannot continue this ridiculous cycle. The utilities should seek approval for business models that fit with current realities and that align with the needs of customers for an affordable, clean, safe energy system.

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