Ernie Fletcher Governor

LaJuana S. Wilcher, Secretary Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet

Christopher L. Lilly Commissioner Department of Public Protection

Kent W. Blake Director State Regulations and Rates Louisville Gas and Electric Company 220 W. Main Street P. O. Box 32010 Louisville, KY 40232-2010



Commonwealth of Kentucky **Public Service Commission** 211 Sower Blvd. P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615 Telephone: (502) 564-3940 Fax: (502) 564-3460 psc.ky.gov

December 6, 2005

Mark David Goss Chairman

> Teresa J. Hill Vice Chairman

Gregory Coker Commissioner

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

RE: Case No. 2005-00224 Louisville Gas and Electric Company

I, Beth O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Public Service Commission, hereby certify that the enclosed attested copy of the Commission's Order in the above case was served upon the addressee by U.S. Mail on December 6, 2005.

**Executive Director** 

BOD/jc Enclosure

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## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

# LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

CASE NO. 2005-00224

ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ) KRS 278.042 AND 807 KAR 5:006, SECTION 24 )

# <u>order</u>

Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E") is a Kentucky corporation that engages in the distribution of electricity to the public for compensation for lights, heat, power, and other uses, and is a utility subject to Commission jurisdiction. KRS 278.010(3)(a); KRS 278.040(1).

On July 8, 2004, the Commission directed LG&E to appear before us and show cause why it should not be penalized pursuant to KRS 278.990(1) for its alleged violation of KRS 278.042 and Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:006, Section 24.

Following commencement of this proceeding, LG&E and Commission Staff entered into negotiations to resolve all outstanding issues in this proceeding. On October 28, 2005, they executed a Settlement Agreement that is appended hereto. LG&E has submitted this agreement to the Commission for our review and approval.

In reviewing this Settlement Agreement, the Commission has considered, inter alia, the circumstances surrounding the April 13, 2005 incident and LG&E's willingness to increase the number of audits of its contractors and to expand its safety instruction. The Commission finds that the Settlement Agreement is in accordance with the law, does not

violate any regulatory principle, results in a reasonable resolution of this case, and is in the public interest.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The Settlement Agreement is incorporated into this Order as if fully set forth herein.

2. The terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement are adopted and approved.

3. Within 10 days of the date of this Order, LG&E shall pay to the Commonwealth of Kentucky the sum of \$4,500. This payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the Treasurer, Commonwealth of Kentucky, and shall be mailed or delivered to the Office of General Counsel, Public Service Commission of Kentucky, 211 Sower Boulevard, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

4. Upon receipt of the payment set forth in Ordering Paragraph 3, this case shall be closed and removed from the Commission's docket without further Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 6th day of December, 2005.

By the Commission

ATTEST Executive Director

Case No. 2005-00224

# APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2005-00224 DATED December 6, 2005.

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement is entered into this <u>28th</u> day of <u>October</u>, 2005, by and between Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E") and the Staff of the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission Staff").

# WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, LG&E is a utility engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity to the public, subject to jurisdiction of the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") pursuant to KRS Chapter 278; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2005, an incident occurred at LG&E's Cane Run Generating Station in Jefferson County, Kentucky (the "April 13, 2005 Incident"), which the Commission Staff investigated and submitted its Incident Investigation - Staff Report ("Report") on May 12, 2005; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2005, the Commission entered an Order initiating Case No. 2005-00224, styled *Louisville Gas and Electric Company: Alleged Failure to Comply with KRS 278.042 and 807 KAR 5:006, Section 24,* and ordering LG&E to show cause why it should not be subject to the penalties of KRS 278.990(1) for the alleged probable violations of the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC") and the Kentucky Administrative Regulations listed in the Report; and

WHEREAS, in the April 13, 2005 Incident, James M. Murphy, an employee of Ops Plus, Inc., was injured in a fall from a 138 kV breaker while working at the Cane Run Generating Station in Louisville, Kentucky. At the time of the incident, Ops Plus, Inc. was acting within the scope of a contract with LG&E to maintain certain utility plant at the Cane Run facility. At the time, Mr. Murphy was wearing a body harness, but it was not belted off to a supporting structure. NESC Section 42, rule 420-H requires employees to use personal protective equipment, the protective devices, and the special tools provided for their work. NESC Section 42, Rule 420-K requires that a climber, at elevated locations above 10 feet be attached to equipment or structures by a fall-protection system. 807 KAR 5:006, Section 24, requires each utility to adopt and execute a safety program. LG&E has adopted a Health and Safety Manual ("LG&E Manual") which describes its safety program for its employees. It is alleged that Mr. Murphy failed to comply with the LG&E Manual, Section A.21; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2005, LG&E, by counsel, filed its response to the Report and the Commission's Order of July 8, 2005, denying that LG&E had willfully violated the NESC or KAR as cited in the Report; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2005, LG&E and Commission Staff held an informal conference at the Commission's offices in which all issues were discussed; and

WHEREAS, LG&E and Commission Staff, the signatories to this Settlement Agreement, negotiated a settlement through compromise resolving all issues surrounding the April 13, 2005 Incident.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the premises and conditions set forth herein, the signatories hereby agree as follows:

1. The probable violation of 807 KAR 5:006, Section 24, listed in the Report should be dismissed because LG&E had in effect and was executing a safety program for its employees at the time of the incident, and Mr. Murphy was not an employee of LG&E at the time of the incident. 2. Within 10 days after the entry of an Order approving this Settlement Agreement, LG&E shall pay to the Commonwealth of Kentucky the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) in full satisfaction of any applicable civil fines associated with this proceeding. This payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the "Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Kentucky" and shall be mailed or delivered to the Office of General Counsel, Public Service Commission of Kentucky, 211 Sower Boulevard, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

3. As part of this Settlement Agreement, LG&E acknowledges and agrees that the number of audits it conducts of the work done by its independent contractors in 2005 will exceed the number of those audits which were conducted in 2004.

4. In addition, as part of this Settlement Agreement, LG&E will engage an outside fall-protection expert to make a presentation on fall-protection safeguards during its next quarterly contractor safety meeting, in October or November 2005, for the purpose of reminding the representatives of its contractors of the importance of utilizing proper fall-protection safety measures.

5. This Settlement Agreement is subject to the acceptance of and approval by the Commission. Following the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Commission Staff will recommend to the Commission that this Settlement Agreement be accepted and approved. If the Commission issues a final Order in which it accepts and approves this Settlement Agreement in its entirety, LG&E hereby waives its right under KRS 278.400 to file an application for rehearing and its right under KRS 278.410 to file a complaint in the Franklin Circuit Court regarding such Order of the Commission.

> Case No. 2005-00224 Page 3 of 5

6. If the Commission does not accept and approve this Settlement Agreement in its entirety, then: (a) this Settlement Agreement shall be null, void, and withdrawn by the signatories hereto from further consideration by the Commission and none of the signatories shall be bound by any of the provisions herein; and (b) this proceeding shall go forward and neither the terms of this Settlement Agreement nor any matters raised during the settlement negotiations shall be binding on any of the signatories to this Settlement Agreement or be construed against any of the signatories.

7. This Settlement Agreement reflects a compromise resolution of a contested matter. The scope of this proceeding is limited by the Commission's July 8, 2005 Order to whether LG&E should be assessed penalties under KRS 278.990 for willful violations of Commission regulations, including NESC Rules. Neither the payment of the civil penalty, nor any other terms of this Settlement Agreement, shall be construed as an admission by LG&E of a willful violation of any Commission regulation or NESC Rule, nor shall it be construed as an admission by LG&E of any liability in any legal proceeding or lawsuit arising out of the facts set forth in the Report, nor shall the Commission's acceptance of this Settlement Agreement be construed as a finding of a willful violation of any Commission regulation or NESC Rule.

8. This Settlement Agreement shall not be used for any purpose in any subsequent legal or administrative proceeding (other than a proceeding by the Commission to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement), and LG&E shall not be precluded or estopped from raising any issue, claim, or defense therein by reason of the execution of this Settlement Agreement.

Case No. 2005-00224 Page 4 of 5 9. LG&E and Commission Staff agree that this Settlement Agreement is reasonable, is in the public interest, and should be adopted in its entirety by the Commission. If so adopted by the Commission, LG&E agrees to waive its right to a formal hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto affixed their signatures.

Louisville Gas and Electric Company

By Counsel

**Commission Staff** Kentucky Public Service Commission Βv Counsel