Ernie Fletcher Governor

Teresa J. Hill, Secretary Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet

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August 2, 2007

Mark David Goss Chairman

> John W. Clay Commissioner

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

RE: Case No. 2007-00232 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 August 2, 2007.

**Executive Director** 

BOD/tw Enclosure

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#### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SECURITIES AND THE ASSUMPTION OF OBLIGATIONS

CASE NO. 2007-00232

## <u>ORDER</u>

)

On June 13, 2007, Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E") filed an application for authority to enter into one or more multi-year revolving credit facilities ("Facility") with one or more financial institutions ("Institution"). The aggregate maximum amount of credit available under all Credit Facilities would not exceed \$125,000,000.

While each draw of funds would be short-term debt, with a term not to exceed 364 days, LG&E foresees entering into contracts with Institutions of up to 5 years. LG&E expects market conditions to remain favorable for entrance into multi-year Credit Facilities; hence, it is advantageous for LG&E to enter into the proposed long-term credit arrangement(s) even though the debt under such arrangement(s) will be short term. This situation would alleviate the time and costs of negotiation and renewal on an annual basis during the term of the credit commitment.

LG&E would negotiate terms for fees as well as interest rates for funds borrowed. Interest rate options would set rates at some spread in relation to such indices as the Institution's prime rate, the Federal Funds Rate or the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR"), as well as provisions for converting from one interest rate to another. LG&E believes that rates under a Facility would not exceed 5.8 percent or approximately 40 basis points above the current LIBOR, based on current market conditions. LG&E does expect rates to vary over the 5-year term of the credit commitment. LG&E also expects that it may be required to pay an initial fee to establish the Facility, as well as an ongoing administrative fee to maintain the credit commitment. LG&E does not believe the initial fee would exceed five basis points or .05 percent of the Institution's commitment, and the Administrative fee would not exceed seven basis points or .07 percent annually.

LG&E's variable rate external debt contains provisions whereby liquidity or credit support may be provided by instruments such as the Facilities in question, thus making the external long-term debt more marketable and eliminating the need for bond insurance. It is expected that the Facilities would serve this function and, in such role, funds would not necessarily be drawn. LG&E contends that it is possible that funds associated with this line of credit could be used to finance the general costs of operation or costs of construction programs, such as the construction of Trimble County Unit Two, until permanent or long-term financing can be arranged. Borrowing under the Facilities would be used to meet short-term financing needs as they arise, and LG&E does not assign specific financing to any particular capital project or use, and does not project finance projects.

LG&E had not contacted any Institution to discuss proposals as of the date of its application. LG&E may enter into one or more short-term Credit Facilities, for terms less than one year, not requiring Commission approval. Such short-term Credit Facilities could contain provisions giving the option of extension of the term of the short-

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term Facilities to a multi-year term, in the event that LG&E received approval necessary to enter into the extension.

The Commission, having considered the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that the proposed assumption of obligations in connection therewith as set out in LG&E's application should be approved and that the proposed financing is for lawful objects within the corporate purposes of LG&E's utility operations, is necessary and appropriate for and consistent with the proper performance of its service to the public, will not impair its ability to perform that service, is reasonably necessary and appropriate for such purposes, and should therefore be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

 LG&E is authorized to enter into one or more multi-year revolving Credit Facilities with one or more financial institutions in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$125 million, as set forth in its application.

2. LG&E is authorized to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under the agreements and documents as set out in the application, and to perform the transactions contemplated by such agreements.

3. The proceeds from the transactions authorized herein shall be used only for the lawful purposes set out in the application.

4. LG&E shall agree only to such terms and prices consistent with this Order.

5. LG&E shall, within 30 days from the entrance into any multi-year Credit Facility, file with this Commission a statement setting forth the date or dates of implementation of the Credit Facility, or of exercise of any extension option as well as all fees and expenses.

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Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a finding of value for any purpose or as a warranty on the part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or any agency thereof as to the securities authorized herein.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 2nd day of August, 2007.

By the Commission

ATJES Executive/Director