COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION RECEIVED

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In the Matter of:

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THE APPLICATION OF SOUTH KENTUCKY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE COOPERATION FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE THE FIXED ASSESTS OF THE MONTICELLO ELECTRIC PLANT BOARD, MONICELLO, KY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION CASE NO. 2007-00374

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MOTION TO DISAPPROVE APPLICATION

Comes now the intervenor, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky ("Attorney General"), by and through his Office of Rate Intervention, and responds to the motion for protective order by South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation ("SKRECC"), or in the alternative, the Attorney General moves for disapproval of the application.

While SKRECC has moved for a protective order, no grounds for asking same have been provided except for an assertion that "the transaction must close by December 6, 2007 and there is simply not sufficient time to conduct further discovery."¹ The basis for this deadline is not clear. If SKRECC has a self-imposed deadline due to contractual arrangements, this fact is irrelevant because any contractual arrangements do not supersede any Commission regulation(s) and associated timeframe(s) for approval. If the unmentioned basis is a Commission deadline, such as KRS 278.020, the Commission should not be forced into making a decision on the approval of a

¹ See SKRECC Motion dated November 8, 2007, at page 5.

transaction which may be subsequently voided. If that is the situation inferred and a statutory deadline exists, the Commission should allow the Attorney General the opportunity to explore the lawfulness of the underlying transaction or disapprove the application until the Commission has had time to adequately review same. Indeed, the Commission should not approve a transaction which may be voidable due to unlawfulness. Moreover, in that instance, it could serve no proper public purpose.

Aside from the unidentified basis for the deadline and any need to rush for Commission approval², SKRECC does not contest the Attorney General's duty to explore the lawfulness of the transaction³. SKRECC's failure to do so should be construed as a passive admission that SKRECC concedes the importance of the issue or at least wants to ignore it.

WHREFORE, the Attorney General respectfully moves the Commission to amend the procedural schedule as the Commission deems fit in order to afford the Attorney General the opportunity to explore the legality of the underlying transaction by way of discovery as well as participation at any hearing or, in the alternative, disapprove the transaction if any statutory deadline prevents the Commission from conducting its statutory review.

 $^{^{2}}$ SKRECC should not be allowed to wait until August 20, 2007 to file its application and then force the Commission into unnecessary, expedited action by demanding a decision on or before December 6, 2007.

³ The Attorney General does not take lightly the fact the Monticello citizens have apparently voted in favor of the transaction. However, in the event that it may be subject to later court denial, the Attorney General must make every effort to ensure that Monticello's citizens do not likewise experience any unnecessary costs and confusion as would SKRECC in the event the transaction is voided.

Respectfully submitted,

GRÉGORY D. STUMBO ATTORNEY GENERAL G DENNIS HOWARD II PAUL D. ADAMS

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND NOTICE OF FILING

I hereby give notice that this the 9thth day of November, 2007, I hand-delivered the original and ten copies of the foregoing Attorney General's Response to Motion fro Protective Order with the Kentucky Public Service Commission at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, certify that this same day I have served the parties by mailing a true copy of same, postage prepaid, to:

Honorable Darrell Saunders Attorney for SKRECC 700 Master Street P.O. Box 1324 Corbin, Kentucky 40702, and

Alan Anderson Manager SKRECC P. O./Box 910 Somerset, KY 42502-0910.

C Assistant Attorney Genera)