Steven L. Beshear Governor

Leonard K. Peters Secretary Energy and Environment Cabinet



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

January 15, 2009

David L. Armstrong Chairman

James W. Gardner Vice Chairman

> John W. Clay Commissioner

## TO: DIVISION OF FILINGS

RE: Case Nos. 2007-00564 and 2008-00252 Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company to File Depreciation Study and Application of Kentucky Utilities Company for an Adjustment of Electric and Gas Base Rates

Please file in the administrative record of the above-referenced cases the enclosed public meeting notes, which were recorded by Commission Staff at the public meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on January 5, 2009.

Sincerely

Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Parties of Record

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#### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

#### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

| AND ELECTRIC COMPANY TO FILE ) CAS<br>DEPRECIATION STUDY ) | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|--|---------------------------------------|
|--|---------------------------------------|

APPLICATION OF LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ELECTRIC BASE RATES

CASE NO. 2008-00252

#### MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING KENTUCKY FAIR & EXPOSITION CENTER, SOUTH WING, ROOM B 101 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY JANUARY 5, 2009 5:30 P.M.

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The public hearing in the above referenced matters was called to order by Chairman David Armstrong who welcomed the attendees. Chairman Armstrong gave a brief opening statement on behalf of the Commission explaining the purpose of the hearing, which was to hear public comments on Louisville Gas & Electric Company's ("LG&E") application for a base rate increase. After explaining the purpose of the application, the procedure and protocol for the public hearing as well as noting that the hearing was being videotaped, Chairman Armstrong invited the public to speak. A list of those individuals who spoke and a summary of their comments is attached hereto as Attachment 1. All persons in attendance were asked to sign in and provide their home addresses for the record. The sign-in sheets are attached hereto at Attachment 2.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, Chairman Armstrong thanked the speakers and attendants for their participation and then dismissed the hearing.

#### ATTACHMENT 1 TO MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC MEETING KENTUCKY FAIR & EXPOSITION CENTER, SOUTH WING, ROOM B 101 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY JANUARY 5, 2009 5:30 P.M. IN CASE NOS. 2007-00564 and 2008-00252

#### 1. <u>Doreen Carlson</u>

Ms. Carlson questioned the propriety of the LG&E DSM programs approved in June 2008 by the Commission concerning LG&E's ability to recover lost revenues as a result of the implementation of these DSM programs. Ms. Carlson also questioned whether such DSM programs were of value or benefits to LG&E's customers.

#### 2. Joetta Venneman

Ms. Venneman expressed concerns over the emissions of carbon and fine particulate matters in the Shively area caused by LG&E's generation facilities. Ms. Venneman recommended that the Commission not provide a "blank check" to LG&E regarding the utility's request for a rate increase, noting that the Commission should impose strict guidelines upon LG&E if the Commission were to approve LG&E's rate request and demand of LG&E transparency and detailed accounting of the funds received as a result of the increase, if any.

#### 3. <u>David Salee</u>

Mr. Salee questioned why LG&E needed to raise its rates when, according to Mr. Salee, the Tennessee Valley Authority recently announced that it was reducing its rates by 6%.

#### 4. <u>Cathy Hinko</u>

Ms. Hinko criticized the amount of increases in the per meter gas charge and the gas distribution cost. She states that LG&E's request to increase its rates would result in more foreclosures and a lower level of lifestyle. Ms. Hinko suggested that LG&E should focus more on energy efficiency programs. Ms. Hinko is concerned with the unknown cost incurred by LG&E as a result of its restoration efforts in the wake of the Hurrican Ike-related windstorm in September 2008.

#### 5. Robert Strickland

Mr. Strickland is unsure of the reasons driving LG&E's request to increase its rates. Mr. Strickland states that if the rate increase is due to capital investments toward improving aging power plants, then he would have no issues with a rate increase. However, he is suspicious that the increase in rates will go to line the pockets of LG&E's executives. Mr. Strickland informed that he is practicing energy conservation and lives in a 1,000 square foot home but his last utility bill was still \$191.

#### 6. James C. Mudd

Mr. Mudd is a retiree and lives on a state retirement income. He indicated that he has implemented all of the energy efficiency measures promoted by LG&E but his current bill has increased by \$100 more than his last bill. Mr. Mudd stated that E.ON is controlling and dominating the Commission and that the Commission is not looking out for the consumer, particularly low income customers.

#### 7. Mark Thurston

Mr. Thurston stated that LG&E's request for a rate increase should not be granted in light of the current economic condition.

#### 8. <u>Kelly Reesor</u>

Mr. Reesor, an owner of a printing company, informed that his business is doing everything it could to cut costs, including utility expenses. He stated that the prices of coal and natural gas have decreased. In lieu of a rate increase, Mr. Reesor asked E.ON to cut its own costs and asked the Commission to review whether the utility has taken such measures before requesting a rate increase.

#### 9. Tammy Steward

Instead of asking the consumers to take the burden of a rate increase, Ms. Steward is of the opinion that LG&E should use its own funds to address any shortfall in expenses. Ms. Steward stated that the Commission should look out for the customers' interests rather than that of the company. It appears to Ms. Steward that LG&E is constantly raising its rates.

#### 10. <u>Bob Fowler</u>

Mr. Fowler offered the following four reasons (based on a certain survey) why LG&E's rates should be decreased rather than being increased: (i) 1 in 5 households are delinquent in their utility bills; 1 in 20 households have had their utility disconnected; and the current economic situation will only exacerbate this situation; (ii) the unemployment rate is 6.7% and projected to increase to 10%; (iii) the price of oil has decreased 68% since its summer peak; natural gas rate has also decreased; and (iv) LG&E should revise its business model and should cut costs to meet its needs.

#### 11. Robert Allen

Mr. Allen stated that LG&E has not operated their business properly. Mr. Allen provided an example in which LG&E failed to trim the trees on his property. The limbs on the trees eventually broke causing an outage.

#### 12. Eddie Minor

Mr. Minor had some questions concerning his last LG&E bill.

#### 13. Paul Shaughnessy

Mr. Shaughnessy stated that the PSC should pay close attention to the energy rate, as a slight change in this rate could create a significant increase in a customer's utility bill.

#### 14. <u>Bill Riddle</u>

Mr. Riddle stated that LG&E was installing a new computer system called SAP and that LG&E was financing the purchase of this system through a loan from E.ON. As a result of this new computer system, Mr. Riddle indicated that LG&E will outsource some of its jobs to Europe. Mr. Riddle informed that when E.ON acquired LG&E and KU, they promised not to increase rates for five years.

#### 15. Mary Love

Ms. Love has four questions why LG&E needs a rate increase: (i) she questions whether Trimble County 2 needs to be constructed; (ii) she questions why LG&E is not concentrating on renewable resources like their parent company, E.ON; (iii) she questions whether LG&E would be able to meet future green house gas requirements or standards; and (iv) she questions whether the construction of Trimble County 2 fits with the governor's energy strategy.

#### 16. <u>Beverly Cole</u>

Ms. Cole expressed concerns how the rate increase would impact low income customers and those on a fixed income. She questioned why LG&E would request a rate increase during tough economic times.

#### 17. John Sommers

Mr. Sommers asked why LG&E needs to run commercials when they are a monopoly. He stated that customers cannot afford an increase in utility rates at this time.

#### 18. <u>Victor Barbour</u>

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Mr. Barbour questioned why LG&E has increased its rates twice annually for the last six years. He criticized LG&E on the reliability of their service. He stated that he implements all energy saving measures but his utility bill is still \$209.

#### 19. Wallace McMullen

Mr. Mullen questioned LG&E's decision to build Trimble County 2. Mr. McMullen stated that LG&E should have invested more in its DSM programs, diversified its fuel resources, and build a more robust distribution system in Louisville to prevent the outages which occurred as a result of the September windstorm.

#### 20. <u>Phil Petredis</u>

Mr. Petredis stated that LG&E cannot be trusted. His average utility bill has increased from \$166 to \$240. He further stated that he is on budget billing but that he has a credit on his bill in anticipation of a rate increase.

#### 21. <u>Martha Stewart</u>

Ms. Stewart stated that the construction of Trimble County 2 is the driving factor behind LG&E's request for a rate increase. She criticized the use of coal and stated that we all need to think outside the "coal box." She suggested that LG&E should focus on renewable resources similar to the practice currently being conducted in Germany. She stated that energy efficiency is a key to avoiding the cost of constructing new generating plants.

#### 22. Rev. Genome Sutton

Rev. Sutton stated that it was immoral for LG&E to request an increase in rates in times such as this. Everyone should be concerned of the impact of any rate increase on low income customers. He stated that the requested rate increase, on average, would increase a customer's bill by more than \$200 annually, and this would severely impact low income individuals.

#### 23. <u>Myra Solomon</u>

Ms. Solomon stated that she is speaking on behalf of all senior citizens. She stated that there already has been an increase in LG&E's rates. Her last month's bill was \$234 even with energy conversation measures. She is concerned that an increase in rates would cause many to not be able to pay their utility bills.

#### 24. <u>Michelle Thompson</u>

Ms. Thompson stated that LG&E's request should be denied because the utility just increased their rates in November.

#### ATTACHMENT 2 TO MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC MEETING KENTUCKY FAIR & EXPOSITION CENTER, SOUTH WING, ROOM B 101 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY JANUARY 5, 2009 5:30 P.M. IN CASE NOS. 2007-00564 and 2008-00252

PUBLIC & 2009 COMMISSERVICE **PUBLIC MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET** 

Louisville Gas & Electric Co. – Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009

| Name              | Address                   | DO YOU WISH<br>TO SPEAK? |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| DOREGN CARSON     |                           | YES NO                   |
| 2 STUDIET PAPERIS | 505 PENNYROYAL WAL LOU    | 1CY 40023YES (NO)        |
| 3 Katrina Coark   | LGTE                      | YES NO                   |
| 4 Joetta Venneman |                           | YES NO                   |
| 5 line areix      |                           | YES NO                   |
| 6 Lonnie BellAn   | LGPE                      | YES NO                   |
| 7 DAVID A GALLER  | 5610 Fox Horn Concle      | YES NO                   |
| 8 Jim Halloway    |                           | YES NO                   |
| 9 Tom Fuchs       | 3001 Greenup Road 40217   | YES NO                   |
| 10 Cathy Hinda    | MHC P. O. BOX 4533 Con 40 | 207 YES NO               |

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### **PUBLIC MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET**

Louisville Gas & Electric Co. - Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009





Louisville Gas & Electric Co. - Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009

|       | Name    | Address                               | DO YOU W<br>TO SPEA |    |
|-------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----|
|       | 1 303   | FOWLER JEFECO LOUKYYOU                | 7 YES               | NO |
|       | 2 Robe  | at Allen 1325 JEANEtterve. 40213      | YES                 | NO |
|       | ~       | a Ma Donald                           | YES                 | NO |
| Eddie | -4- End | ie minor                              | YES                 | NO |
| C     | 5 MY    | RA SOLOMON                            | YES                 | NO |
|       | 6 / HRI | SHERMANN                              | NES.                | NO |
|       | 7 Paul  | K Shaughnessy 2229 Millingerond 40205 | YES                 | NO |
| Don-  | -       |                                       | YES                 | NO |
| Ý     | 9 BILL  | RIDDLE                                | YES                 | NO |
|       | 10 Maru |                                       | YES                 | NO |
|       | /       |                                       |                     |    |

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# **PUBLIC MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET**

Louisville Gas & Electric Co. – Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009

| Na         | me Address                | DO YOU WISH<br>TO SPEAK? |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <br>1      | Tim HALEY 100 FRASK ESMON | YES NO                   |
| 2          | Robert M. Conny LGOR      | YES NO                   |
| 3          | Beverly Cole              | YES NO                   |
| 4          | LAMES MCCLELLA            | YES NO                   |
| 5 <u>7</u> | PHIL PETREDIS             | YES NO                   |
| 6          | And + Caroline Sommers    | YES NO                   |
| 7_(        | Mike Gueven               | VES NO                   |
| 8          | Int Behan Barbows         | YES NO                   |
| 9          | Walkare Mc Mulles         | YES NO                   |
| 10_        | Michell Sumpson           | YES NO                   |
|            | ş                         |                          |

Louisville Gas & Electric Co. – Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009

| Nam            | e Address                         | DO YOU V<br>TO SPE |                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1Ro            | W. GENOME SUHON 515 South 34 HRET | YES                | <sup>,</sup> NO |
| 2              | Maria Soloman                     | YES                | NO              |
| - <u></u> 3    | Myra Soloman<br>Vitahil Gempson   | YES                | NO              |
| 4              |                                   | YES                | NO              |
| 5              |                                   | YES                | NO              |
| 6              |                                   | YES                | NO              |
| 7              |                                   | YES                | NO              |
| '<br>8         |                                   | YES                | NO              |
| 9              |                                   | YES                | NO              |
| <i>3</i><br>10 |                                   | YES                | NO              |

Louisville Gas & Electric Co. - Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009

| Name              | Address   | DO YOU WISH<br>TO SPEAK? |  |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 Margaret Stewar | t Lon. Ky | YES NO                   |  |
| 2                 | /         | YES NO                   |  |
| 3                 |           | YES NO                   |  |
| 4                 |           | YES NO                   |  |
| 5                 | ·         | YES NO                   |  |
| 6                 |           | YES NO                   |  |
| 7                 |           | YES NO                   |  |
| 8                 |           | YES NO                   |  |
| 9                 |           | YES NO                   |  |
| 10                |           | YES NO                   |  |

Louisville Gas & Electric Co. – Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009

| Name Address      |          | DO YOU WISH<br>TO SPEAK? |    |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|----|
| 1 Cindy Oaden     |          | YES                      | NO |
| 2 Attopkint Almer | https:// | YES (                    | NO |
| 3 PEDDI TAYLOR    | -        | YES                      | NO |
| 4 Shirley Stoll   |          | YES                      | NO |
| 5 Richard Elble   |          | YES                      | NO |
| 6                 | · · ·    | YES                      | NO |
| 7                 |          | YES                      | NO |
| 8                 |          | YES                      | NO |
| 9                 |          | YES                      | NO |
| 10                |          | YES                      | NO |

Louisville Gas & Electric Co. - Case No. 2008-00252

Louisville – January 5, 2009

| ΤΟ  | SPEA      | <b>\K</b> ? |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| 1 R. I. BARENETT 315 E KENWOOD DR 40214 Y                               | ΈS (      | NO          |
| 1 <u>R.II. BARENETT 315 E KENWOOD DR 40214 Y</u><br>2 ROBERT CRUTCHER Y | 'ES       | NO          |
|   | 'ES       | NO          |
| 4 Y   | ΈS        | NO          |
| 5Y  | 'ES       | NO          |
| 6Y  | <b>ES</b> | NO          |
| 7Y  | ′ES       | NO          |
| 8Y  | 'ES       | NO          |
| 9Y  | <b>ES</b> | NO          |
| 10Y   | ′ES       | NO          |