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 David L. Armstrong Chairman

James Gardner Vice-Chairman

John W. Clay Commissioner

November 12, 2008

Lawrence W. Cook
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General Utility & Rate Intervention Division
1024 Capital Center Drive
Suite 200
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

RE: Case No. 2008-00456

Please see enclosed data request from Commission Staff in the above case.

If you need further assistance, please contact my staff at (502) 564-3940.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stumbo Executive Director

SS/rs Enclosure



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John W. Clay Commissioner

Honorable W. Duncan Crosby III Attorney at Law Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC 2000 PNC Plaza 500 W Jefferson Street Louisville, KY 40202-2828

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November 12, 2008

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Honorable Allyson K. Sturgeon Attorney at Law E.ON U.S. Services, Inc. 220 West Main Street Louisville, KY 40202

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## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter or

APPLICATION OF LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC	)	
COMPANY FOR AN ORDER APPROVING THE	)	CASE NO.
ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATORY ASSET	)	2008-00456

## FIRST DATA REQUEST OF COMMISSION STAFF TO LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E"), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, is to file with the Commission the original and 7 copies of the following information, with a copy to all parties of record. The information requested herein is due no later than November 19, 2008. Responses to requests for information shall be appropriately bound, tabbed and indexed. Each response shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided.

Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

LG&E shall make timely amendment to any prior responses if it obtains information which indicates that the response was incorrect when made or, though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect. For any request to which LG&E fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, it shall provide a

written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention shall be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations.

- 1. Refer to Paragraph 9 of LG&E's application and Item 25(b) of LG&E's response to the Supplemental Request for Information of the Attorney General in Case No. 2008-00252.1
- a. The text in the application states that property and casualty insurance for distribution and transmission storm damage is prohibitively expensive. The data response indicates that LG&E was covered by storm insurance prior to 2004 when the premium and deductible were raised and the insurance was deemed "[n]ot cost effective." Identify the insurance provider and provide the premium and deductible for LG&E's storm insurance in 2003.
- b. Provide the premium and deductible LG&E was offered, and which it declined in 2004, and the name of the insurance provider who made the offer.
- c. Explain whether LG&E sought offers from other insurance providers for 2004 after it determined that the offer from the insurance provider identified in part b. of this response was deemed not cost-effective. If no offers were sought, explain why.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Case No. 2008-00252, Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of Base Rates.

- d. Explain whether LG&E has revisited the issue of carrying storm insurance since 2004 by seeking quotes from any providers of such insurance. If no quotes have been sought since 2004, explain why.
- 2. Refer to paragraph 11 of LG&E's application and Item 49.b. of LG&E's response to the Commission Staff's second data request in Case No. 2008-00252.
- a. The application text and footnote thereto indicate that, if LG&E's proposed accounting treatment of its Hurricane Ike costs is granted by the Commission, LG&E anticipates requesting amortization and rate recovery of those costs in Case No. 2008-00252. The data response refers to the likelihood that a rate case will need to be filed in the near future due to the need to recover costs related to Trimble County Unit 2 ("Trimble 2"). If the data response means that LG&E expects to file a rate case to commence recovery of Trimble 2 costs in 2010, when the unit is expected to begin commercial operation, explain why LG&E plans to seek rate recovery of Hurricane Ike costs in its current rate case rather than its next rate case.
- b. If not covered in its response to part a. of this request, state LG&E's position, including a listing of the positive and negative aspects, on the recovery of Hurricane Ike costs not being considered by the Commission until LG&E's next general rate case.
  - 3. Refer to paragraph 16 of LG&E's application.
- a. LG&E asks that the Commission rule on its request by December 31, 2008, so that it may reflect the related adjustments on its books for calendar year 2008. Provide the date by which LG&E will close its books for calendar year 2008 and, if that date is in early 2009, explain why LG&E requests a ruling prior to that date.

- b. The text of the paragraph indicates that reflecting the adjustments related to its requested accounting treatment on its books for calendar year 2008 will "[a]void distortion in LG&E's financial statements, the accuracy of which it is important to maintain." Provide LG&E's electric operations income statement for the most recent 12 months available, as well as a 2008 calendar year-to-date electric operations income statement ending with the same month as the 12-months income statement.
- 4. Refer to Exhibit 1 of LG&E's application which contains estimates of its costs related to restoring service in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.
- a. Costs in the category of Internal Employee Labor for LG&E are roughly \$4.6 million, while offsetting estimates that are considered normal operations and which are identified as Internal Employee Resource Costs in the column headed "LG&E O&M Expenses" are roughly \$865,000. Explain whether the difference in these two amounts consists entirely of employee overtime costs. Identify all cost components that make up this difference.
- b. The amount in Internal Employee Labor for LG&E includes slightly more than \$1.5 million identified as "KU Employees." Explain in detail why the amount identified as "KU Labor/Transportation charged to LG&E Storm" under Internal Employee Resource Costs is shown as an offset against the O&M expenses of Kentucky Utilities Company rather than against the O&M expenses of LG&E.
- c. A contingency amount of \$2,088,192 is listed under LG&E's O&M expense. Explain the need for a contingency in conjunction with estimated storm-related restoration costs and describe how the amount was derived.

d. The exhibit indicates that LG&E's cost estimate of \$24.1 million was determined as of September 14, 2008. Provide an update of the cost estimate based on the most recent information available and, using the same classifications as in Exhibit 1, provide the amounts of LG&E's known, actual (not estimated) storm-related costs. Show the date on which the updated estimate is based.

Stephanie Stumbo

Executive Director

**Public Service Commission** 

P. O. Box 615

Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

DATED November 12, 2008

cc: All Parties