

February 3, 2010

Kentucky Public Service Commission  
Chairman David Armstrong  
211 Sower Boulevard, P.O. Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

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COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am writing today in opposition to the proposed rate hike by KY Power (Case No. 2009-004590).

I was really surprised that they had the guts to even suggest something so outrageous in light of their subpar performance in recent months, not to mention the fact that we're in a recession. I really don't know how they think we can squeeze out that much extra money a month when some people are barely making it now. I am a widow living on my late husband's pension of \$530.02 a month. That really doesn't go very far at all. My electric bill this month is \$296.35. That's 2/3 of my income. I pray that you will do your job and protect the more vulnerable consumers like myself. I can't sustain a huge bill like this every month, with 35% added to it, the burden becomes unbearable.

I really try and keep my usage down. I turn the heat down to 67-68 at night, and through the day not over 70. It's cool at that temperature so I wear layers of clothes and jackets. I use energy efficient bulbs, and only light the room I'm in at the time. It seems my efforts never pay off though, as my electric bill keeps rising. It's really discouraging.

Due to KY Power's neglect of their right of ways and extended power outages, I have lost all my food on 2 different occasions, January and December of last year, and my very old refrigerator did not survive this last power outage. My family helped me to get a new one. My story is not unique. KY Power let us down by not maintaining their lines properly. Part of the money we pay should go for maintenance, but

they won't cut trees for you if you call and ask them. I recently reported trees growing in the line going from the main transformer in my yard to my outdoor light. As I read it, that's their responsibility. Do you know what they said when I called. Well, give us a couple of days notice and we'll come and drop the line for you so you can hire someone to cut the trees. If I had money to have trees cut, why would I be calling them? They used to keep the right of ways cut, but for many years now they have become lax in their upkeep and service has subsequently suffered because of it.

Instead of asking their customers for a raise, I think KY Power should make cuts from within, starting with the top executives pay. Why should they not feel some of the pain associated with this recession as the rest of us have?

I have a suggestion. Since we're limited in our choices of a power provider and they seem to charge whatever the heck they want, why couldn't our payments to them be on a sliding scale principle, correlated to income? That would be fair to everyone. The people making good incomes could pay the exorbitant prices KY Power is asking for, and the elderly, disabled and unemployed could get a bit of a break for a change. I really don't know how much more people can take. I fear there will be loss of life as these tough times continue, due to people having to make choices between food, medicine and utilities..

In my opinion, the proposed rate hike is unjustified and just plain greed oriented. Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider the things I've mentioned in this letter in making your final decision.

Respectfully,

Janet Wells

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