

RECEIVED

APR 21 2010

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

April 20, 2010

Kentucky Public Service Commission
Attn: Executive Director Jeff DeRouen
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Regarding Case Number 2009-00549, E-ON US's request to TRIPLE its customer charge.

Dear Mr. DeRouen,

Please **DENY** E-ON US's request to increase both its natural gas and electric "Customer Charge" by 300% as referenced in Case Number 2009-00549. Unlike other services, only one company delivers the electricity and natural gas. It is a monopoly and I cannot just go out and get it from somewhere else. (No, I do not have cable TV or any other unnecessary service) I do not have a fireplace or wood-burning stove for alternate heat and it's unsafe to light a house with kerosene lamps. I'm crippled and on a fixed income, but as a single person, I do not qualify for any of the programs that help people with their heat, food, or any other necessity so this increase is nothing more than another regressive charge by a company looking to fatten up the bottom line at OUR expense so they can sell it. Every since LG&E left local hands, the rates go up every time it's sold to someone else. There have always been costs associated with running a utility, that's what we pay them for in usage and that's part of the business. If they were managed properly, they would plan for weather related expenses. Recent weather events are no excuse to gouge people. There have always been weather events that affect utility companies (e.g. winter of 1977, 1978, 1994, Tornado outbreak of April 3, 1974) why is now any different requiring a 300% increase? Unlike usage rates, where you pay only for what you use, this is a charge for the privilege of just being attached to the service. The proposal is for jacking up the current "customer" charge of \$ 5.00 to \$ 15.00 per month for electricity and from \$9.50 to \$26.50 per month for natural gas and that's before you pay for any usage or any of the other bunch of other fees. So now we are expected to pay \$ 41.50 per month in addition to what we actually use and on top of their other "fees" they have? Ridiculous! We are told at every turn to conserve and I do that in order to keep my bill reasonable. I don't like having to wear outdoor hats and layers of clothing inside just so I can afford to pay my bill, but I do, however, no thermostat setting will offset this excessive increase. There's already big money being made while the excess capacity we have in Kentucky is sold to other utility companies instead of lowering the rates as a reward for less usage. This is nothing more than another example of excessive corporate greed and it needs to be stopped. I implore you on behalf of all Kentuckians that are poor, elderly, or disabled to please **deny** this 300% increase in customer charges. There is no justification for such an excessive increase. When was the last time you (or any other Kentuckian) received a 300% raise or any raise at all? Think about it and please act accordingly on behalf of all of us. I also plan to voice these same concerns at the public hearing in Louisville on Monday May 3rd if I'm able to on that particular day.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher D. Sutton
123A Garden Gate Court
Shepherdsville, KY 40165