COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

KENERGY CORPORATION

ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH KRS 278.042

CASE NO. 2009-00431

ORDER

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Kenergy Corporation ("Kenergy"), a Kentucky cooperative corporation which engages in the distribution of electricity to the public for compensation for light, heat, power, and other uses, and which was formed pursuant to KRS 279.010 to 279.220, is a utility subject to Commission jurisdiction.¹

KRS 278.042 requires the Commission to ensure that each electric utility constructs and maintains its plant and facilities in accordance with accepted engineering practices as set forth in the Commission's administrative regulations and Orders and in the most recent edition of the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC").

KRS 278.030 requires every utility to furnish adequate, efficient and reasonable service. KRS 278.260 permits the Commission, upon its own motion, to investigate any act or practice of a utility that affects or is related to the service of a utility. KRS 278.280(1) further permits the Commission, after conducting such investigation and finding that a practice is unreasonable, unsafe, improper, or inadequate, to determine

¹ KRS 278.010(3)(a); KRS 279.210.

the reasonable, safe, proper, or adequate practice or methods to be observed and to correct the same by Order.

Commission Staff submitted to the Commission an Electric Utility Personal Injury Accident Report ("Report"), dated March 23, 2009, attached as the Appendix to this Order. The Report alleges that, on February 13, 2009, on Knight Road in Lyon County, Kentucky, Bill Plunkett, an employee of Butler Storm Recovery, Inc. ("Butler Storm Recovery"),² sustained burn injuries as a result of an accident at the site of a Kenergy electric construction project.

According to the Report, Mr. Plunkett was a member of a Butler Storm Recovery crew. Butler Storm Recovery was working under contract with Kenergy to replace utility poles that were broken during the ice storm that occurred on January 27, 2009. More specifically, the Butler Storm Recovery crew was digging the holes for the new poles and setting the poles into place.

A Blue Grass Energy Cooperative ("Blue Grass Energy") crew which was working on the same project had confirmed that the single-phase primary distribution tap line on which the Butler Storm Recovery crew was to work was de-energized, and the Blue Grass Energy crew grounded the tap line. According to the Report, the Blue Grass Energy crew foreman told the Butler Storm Recovery crew that the single-phase line was grounded and warned them to beware of making contact with the overhead transmission line.

² According to Kentucky Utilities Company's February 18, 2009 investigation report (See Report, Attachment D), the business addresses of Butler Storm Recovery are 6833 Highway 167-N, Ville Platte, Louisiana 70586 and P.O. Box 370, Turkey Creek, Louisiana 70855.

The Butler Storm Recovery crew was operating a small Bobcat skid steer excavator with a front attachment being used to set the poles in place. The Bobcat was being operated by Justin Pepitone, an employee of Butler Storm Recovery, who was also the person in charge of the job site. After Mr. Pepitone would lift a pole off the ground, other members of the Butler Storm Recovery crew would secure the pole to the Bobcat with a long metal log chain.

While using the Bobcat to lift a utility pole into place, Mr. Pepitone raised the pole too high, bringing the pole into contact with an energized 161 kV transmission conductor owned and operated by Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU"). According to the witness statements contained in the incident report filed by Butler Storm Recovery (Attachment C to the Report), prior to making contact with the transmission lines, Mr. Pepitone asked Mr. Plunkett, who was watching him as he was operating the Bobcat, whether he was clear of the transmission lines, and Mr. Plunkett mistakenly told him that he was clear when, in fact, he was not clear.

At the time of the accident, Mr. Plunkett was walking beside the Bobcat and holding the end of the log chain, which was attached to the pole, in order to keep the chain out of the Bobcat's treads. When the pole made contact with the KU transmission conductor, the victim received a shock-and-burn injury. He suffered an entrance wound to his right hand and exit wounds to his right foot. Mr. Plunkett was taken to a local hospital and was later transferred by helicopter to Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. The victim has since recovered from his injuries.

Based on Commission Staff's investigation of the accident and the information provided by Kenergy in its seven-day summary report (Attachment A to the Report),

-3-

Commission Staff alleges that Kenergy has violated the following provisions of the

NESC:

1. NESC Section 42, 422-A-1 & 2: Employees working on or with overhead lines shall observe the following rules in addition to applicable rules contained elsewhere in Sections 43 and 44:

(1) When setting, moving, or removing poles in or in the vicinity of energized lines, precautions shall be taken to avoid direct contact of the pole with the energized conductors. Employees shall wear suitable insulating gloves or use other suitable means where voltages may exceed rating of gloves in handling poles where conductors energized at potentials above 750 V can be contacted. Employees performing such work shall not contact the pole with uninsulated parts of their bodies.

(2) Contact with trucks, or other equipment that is not bonded to an effective ground being used to set, move, or remove poles in or in the vicinity of energized lines shall be avoided by employees standing on the ground or in contact with grounded objects unless employees are wearing suitable protective equipment.

2. NESC Section 42, 421-A-1 and 2: A First-Level Supervisor or Person in Charge . . . shall: 1. Adopt such precautions as are within the individual's authority to prevent accidents. 2. See that the safety rules and operating procedures are observed by the employees under the direction of this individual.

3. NESC Section 44, 441-A-1: Employees shall not approach or bring any conductive object within the minimum approach distance listed in Table 441-1 or Table 441-4 to exposed parts unless one of the following is met:

- a. The line or part is de-energized and grounded per Rule 444D.
- b. The employee is insulated from the energized line or part. Electrical protective equipment insulated for the voltage involved, such as tools, gloves, rubber gloves, or rubber gloves with sleeves, shall be considered effective insulation for the employee from the energized part being worked on.
- c. The energized line or part is insulated from the employee and from any other line or part at a different voltage.

Based on its review of the Report and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that prima facie evidence exists that Kenergy has failed to comply with KRS 278.042. We further find that a formal investigation into the incident that is the subject matter of the Report should be conducted and that this investigation should also examine the adequacy, safety, and reasonableness of Kenergy's practices related to the construction, installation and repair of electric facilities.

The Commission, on its own motion, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. Kenergy shall submit to the Commission, within 20 days of the date of this Order, a written response to the allegations contained in the Report.

2. Kenergy shall appear on January 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 2 of the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purpose of presenting evidence concerning the alleged violations of KRS 278.042 and 807 KAR 5:006, Section 24, and of showing cause why it should not be subject to the penalties prescribed in KRS 278.990(1) for these alleged violations.

3. At the scheduled hearing in this matter, Kenergy shall also present evidence on the adequacy, safety, and reasonableness of its practices related to the construction, installation and repair of electric facilities and whether such practices require revision.

4. The January 27, 2010 hearing shall be recorded by videotape only unless, on or before January 13, 2010, a party to the proceeding timely moves for a stenographic transcript of the proceedings to be made.

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5. The Report in the Appendix of this Order is made a part of the record in this case.

6. Any requests for an informal conference with Commission Staff shall be set forth in writing and filed with the Commission within 20 days of the date of this Order.

By the Commission

ENTERED GW DEC - 8 2009 KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST: Executive Difector

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2009-00431 DATED DEC - 8 2009



INCIDENT INVESTIGATION ~ Staff Report

Report Date ~ March 23, 2009

Incident Date ~ February 13, 2009

Serving Utility ~ Kenergy Corp.

Incident Location ~ Near Eddyville, Kentucky, Lyon County

 $\underline{\text{Victim}} \sim \text{Mr.}$ Billy Plunkett

PSC Lead Investigator ~ Steve Kingsolver





Electric Utility Personal Injury Incident Report

Utility:

Kenergy Corp.

Reported By:

Sandy Novick, CEO, Kenergy Corp.

Incident Occurred:

February 13, 2009, 9:58 AM. CST

Utility Notified:

February 13, 2009, 10:30 AM. CST

PSC Notified:

February 13, 2009, 10:33 AM. CST

PSC Investigated:

February 13, 2009, 11:30 AM, CST

Report Received:

February 19, 2009, 2:54 PM. EST

Incident Location:

Knight Road, Lyon County, near Eddyville, Kentucky

Incident Description:

The victim, Billy Plunkett, was working for Butler Storm Recovery, Inc. which was contracting with Kenergy Corp. Butler Storm recovery was assisting Kenergy Corp. in restoration work caused by the ice storm that occurred on 1-27-09. This crew was assigned work of replacing poles broken during the ice storm. A Blue Grass energy crew had confirmed that the single phase primary distribution tap line on which this crew was to work was de-energized, and the Blue Grass Energy crew grounded this tap line. The Blue Grass Energy crew foreman, Ben Coffy, stated in his statement that he told the Butler Storm Recovery crew that the single phase line was grounded and to watch the overhead transmission line. The Butler Storm Recovery crew was only digging holes and setting poles. During the process of positioning a pole to set, the crew lifted the pole, and the pole made contact with an energized Kentucky Utilities Company 161 kV transmission conductor. The victim was walking beside the bobcat that was being used to set the pole. He was holding the end of the chain that was securing the pole to the bobcat. The victim received what appears to be an entrance wound to his right hand and exit wounds to his right foot. The victim was taken to a local hospital and was later transferred by helicopter to Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. The person in charge of this job site was Justin Pepitone, an employee of Butler Storm Recovery, Inc. Justin Pepitone was also the bobcat operator at the time of this accident.

Victim:	Name:	Address:	Employer:	
	Billy Plunkett	Mountain Home, Ark.	Butler & Co. Storm Recovery	
Fatality: No Type of Injury: Shock and Burn Date of Birth:				
Witnesses:	Name:	Address:	Employer:	
	Justin Pepitone	Glenmora, La.	Butler & Co. Storm Recovery	
Foreman and Person in Charge				
Information	n From: Name:	Position:	Employer:	
mormation	Sandy Novick	CEO	Kenergy Corp.	
	Gerald Ford	VP of Operations	Kenergy Corp.	
	Donnie Phillips	Manager, Marion District		
	Charles Butler	Supervisor	Butler & Co. Storm Recovery	

Possible Violations:

KAR 278.042 Service adequacy and safety standards for electric utilities-National Electric Safety Code

National Electric Safety Code:

<u>#1 Possible Violation</u>

422. Overhead Line Operating Procedures

Employees working on or with overhead lines shall observe the following rules in addition to applicable rules contained elsewhere in <u>Sections 43</u> and <u>44</u>.

A. Setting, Moving, or Removing Poles In or Near Energized Electric Supply Lines

1. When setting, moving, or removing poles in or in the vicinity of energized lines, precautions shall be taken to avoid direct contact of the pole with the energized conductors. Employees shall wear suitable insulating gloves or use other suitable means where voltages may exceed rating of gloves in handling poles where conductors energized at potentials above 750 V can be contacted. Employees performing such work shall not contact the pole with uninsulated parts of their bodies.

2. Contact with trucks, or other equipment that is not bonded to an effective ground being used to set, move, or remove poles in or in the vicinity of energized lines shall be avoided by employees standing on the ground or in contact with grounded objects unless employees are wearing suitable protective equipment.

#2 Possible Violation

421. General Operating Routines

A. Duties of a First-Level Supervisor or Person in Charge

This individual shall:

1. Adopt such precautions as are within the individual's authority to prevent accidents.

2. See that the safety rules and operating procedures are observed by the employees under the direction of this individual.

#3 possible Violation

441. Energized Conductors or Parts

Employees shall not approach, or knowingly permit others to approach, any exposed ungrounded part normally energized except as permitted by this rule.

A. Minimum Approach Distance to Live Parts

1. General

Employees shall not approach or bring any conductive object within the minimum approach distance listed in <u>Table 441-1</u> or <u>Table 441-4</u> to exposed parts unless one of the following is met:

a. The line or part is de-energized and grounded per Rule 444D.

b. The employee is insulated from the energized line or part. Electrical protective equipment insulated for the voltage involved, such as tools, gloves, rubber gloves, or rubber gloves with sleeves, shall be considered effective insulation for the employee from the energized part being worked on.

c. The energized line or part is insulated from the employee and from any other line or part at a different voltage.

Measurements:

Kentucky Utilities Company Transmission Circuit-161kV Measurements of Circuit East of Structure #466 on Eastside of Knight Road

Line Clearances At Point of Incident:	Measured	Minimum Allowed by NESC	Applicable NESC Edition 2007*	Voltage
Transmission (A- Phase)(South) to Ground Elevation:	36.64'	20'-11"	2007 EDITION	93 kV to Ground
Transmission(B- Phase)(Middle) to Ground Elevation:	36.78'	20'-11"	2007 EDITION	93 kV to Ground
Transmission (C- Phase)(North) to Ground Elevation:	37.11'	20'-11"	2007 EDITION	93 kV to Ground

* If clearances were not in compliance with the current edition, then the edition in effect when the facilities were last constructed or modified would apply.

Date of Measurement: 2-13-09

Temp & Weather: Approximately 40°, Sunny and Clear

 Measurements Made By:
 Name:
 Company:

 Troy Bess
 Kentucky utilities Company

Investigated By: Name: Company: Steve Kingsolver KPSC Utility Regulatory & Safety Investigator IV

Signed: Stuncken geoluer

3-23-09 Date:

Name:	Company:
John Shupp Manager, Electric Branch	KPSC
John W. Shap	
3/23/09	
	John Shupp Manager, Electric Branch

Attachments:

A. Kenergy Summary Report

B. Kenergy Photographs

C. Butler & Co. Report to Kenergy

D. Kentucky Utilities Company Summary Report

E. Kentucky Utilities Co. Photographs

- F. KPSC Photographs of Accident Site
- G. KPSC Site Maps



P.O. Box 1389 • 3111 Fairview Drive Owensboro, Kentucky 42302-1389 (270) 926-4141 • FAX (270) 685-2279 (800) 844-4732

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2009 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 19, 2009

Mr. Steve Kingsolver Electric Branch Kentucky Public Service Commission 730 Schenkel Lane Frankfort, KY 40602

RE: Written Report of Accident

Dear Mr. Kingsolver:

Please find enclosed Kenergy's accident report relative to Bill Plellet's electrical contact on February 13, 2009.

If further information is needed, please call.

Yours truly, ul RAM

Gefald Ford, P.E. VP of Operations



Kenergy Accident Report

Bill Plellet Injury 2-13-09

Location of accident: Knight Road, Lyon Co. KY

Job assignment: Replace 4 broken poles (dig holes and set poles).

<u>2-12-09</u>: One span south of location distribution line load side jumper was opened (pole 447-9 pole # 40) and the line was energized to that location.

<u>2-13-09</u>: At 7 a.m., the crew from Bluegrass Energy grounded both ends of work site so that the Butler crew could begin job assignment.

- Grounded at 447-9- pole #11
- Grounded at 447-9 pole #33
- Poles to be replaced by Butler 447-9 poles #12 #13 #14 #15
- Accident pole #13

Bluegrass Energy crew foreman, Ben Coffee, told Butler crew the distribution was grounded, and to be aware of the high (transmission) line before leaving to resume their work on Thompson Rd. (see statement from Ben Coffee - Bluegrass Energy crew foreman).

<u>2-13-09</u>: At 10:30 a.m., District Manager Donnie Phillips received a call from Ben Coffee stating that a worker had been hurt and that Butler Storm Removal foreman, Todd Legg, was taking the injured worker Bill Plellet to the hospital in Livingston Co. Coffee also stated that from the explosion he heard on Thompson Rd. he believed Butler Storm Removal must have gotten into the high (transmission) line.

<u>2-13-09</u>: At 10:33 a.m., Phillips notified by cell phone, VP of Operations -Gerry Ford, CEO- Sandy Novick, and PSC representative- Steve Kingsolver, who were in Madisonville enroute to Fredonia for a field visit of the operations center. Phillips told Mr. Ford of the situation, gave him directions to the site of the accident, and told him he and Jason Settles (Logistics) would be at the accident site as soon as they checked on the condition of the Plellet at the hospital.

Phillips and Settles then immediately left Fredonia and traveled to the hospital in Salem, KY.

<u>2-13-09</u>: At 10:55 a.m., upon arrival at hospital, Phillips spoke with Butler Storm Removal foreman, Todd Legg. Legg reported to Phillips that the Plellet was alive and appeared to be ok. Phillips asked Legg if electrical current had traveled throughout the worker's body. Legg replied that it had. Phillips told Todd that company policy required that the Plellet be flown as soon as possible to the nearest burn center.

Phillips then spoke with the Plellet's attending physician and was told that his vital signs were good and that he (the doctor) had a helicopter on standby at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, TN. Upon arrival in Salem the helicopter would then fly the Plellet back to Vanderbilt.

The Plellet then asked Phillips if he had his cell phone and Phillips said that he did not. The Plellet told Phillips that Butler Storm Removal foreman, Legg, was notifying his mother. Phillips left the room as nurses began preparing Plellet for the flight to Nashville.

Phillips then called Ben Coffee, Bluegrass crew foreman, to go to the scene of the accident, to secure the scene, and to not allow anyone to leave the scene of the accident.

<u>2-13-09</u>: At 11:30 a.m., Sandy Novick, Gerry Ford, Steve Kingsolver, Donnie Phillips, and Jason Settles arrived at the accident site. Mr. Kingsolver recorded all names and interviewed all witnesses. Photographs were taken and the bobcat was inspected for electrical arcs and burns from the high voltage line.

Accident Review:

Bobcat operator (Justin Peripone) picked up a 40' pole with machine, put clamps around bottom 42" butt end of pole. He then picked the pole up approximately 2-3' and put the chain around the pole and the frame of the lifting bar. There was approximately 71/2' of chain not being used and the Plellet was holding it in his hands to prevent the track of the bobcat from running over it.

According to statements from the bobcat operator, he began backing the machine and raising the pole at the same time. He asked the Plellet holding the chain if he was clear from the transmission line. The Plellet replied, "Yes, you are clear." The bobcat operator continued backing up and raising the pole at the same time. The marks in the ground indicated that the operator had backed up 9'. At this point, there was a loud explosion and the grass caught on fire. The operator then lowered the pole, moved the bobcat forward 20' and exited the bobcat. The bobcat operator did not remember any details after leaving the bobcat.

A phone call was immediately made to Todd Legg, Butler Storm Removal foreman, advising that an accident had occurred and the Plellet had to be taken immediately to the hospital. The Plellet was in extreme pain as Legg transported him to Livingston Co. Hospital in Salem.

Other Butler people at the site were Charles Butler and Nathan Musgrave.

When the Botler Company arrived on Knight Rd I Stated to them that the Single phase line was grounded and to watch the overhead transmission line. The BloeGrass Energy or myself was responsible for this Company 2-13-09 Bun Goff



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01/20/2007 03:17 FAI BUTLER & CO. STORM RECOVERY AND TREE SERVICE INC. BUTLER & CO. STORM RECOVERY AND TREE SERVICE INC. ACCIDENT REPORT SUPPLEMENT Lustin Pepitone, Glenmora; La, (318)729-8237 Foreman/Operator Billy Plunkett, 543 cr. 675, Mountain Home, AR. 72653, Laborer Hire Date:02/08/2009 DOB TOO D Anthony Harvell, Saw Hand, was on location at the hole waiting on the pole. Reports he did not see what happened. James C. Cooper, Laborer, was on location at the hole, waiting on the pole. Reports he did not see what happened, Justine Gillian, Saw Hand, was on location at the hole waiting on the pole. Reports he did not see what happened. Nathan Musgrave, Operator, was moving the digger bobcat away from hole to trailer when event occurred, did not see what happened. 01/20/2007 03:17 FAX

had been dropped off and framed under the transmission line. His statement is also attached to this emall. I then got a statement from Justin Pepitone. I told him to write exactly what happened, then sign and date It. Charles Butler General Manager P.O. Box 256 Turkey Creek, La. 70585

@1003 01/20/2007 03:18 PAX Accident Report Billy + I "Justin" were Pickins UP. The Last of 3 Three Poles I grabed The pole + Tracked Backwords To Clear The Transmission Lines, I asked Billy 3 sepered Times IF we were Clear of The Lines & Each Time He said yes. Billy was holding a. logging chain That was wrapped awand The pale + the pole setter as a Safety chain so The pole could not Come Lose of the polesetter. As the pole same up it struck one of The Transmission Lines with The ground wire & knocked Billy T.O. The ground.

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01/20/2007 03:19 FAX

treat all wines as live wines. They proceeded to pick the pale up under the wires and clift it in the die and into the electric wines. Resulting in Billie being phocked. I then went to the job site, put Billie in the truck and proceeded to the closest thospital. Mashville wastles closest burn center. Summer the truck and proceeded to the closest thospital. Mashville wastles closest burn center. Summer the truck burn center of the the truck burn center. Summer the truck burn center of the the truck burn center.

J cheld his hand 10 the hospital and didn't leave this work if the holicopter care to get him. I then went to the job site and took pictures. I checked on him by phone every that to see if he was OK. I notified his sister, mother, and gielfried. I called Billies sister to check on him she till Mill the they operated on his arm to callier pressure to keep circulation, flowing.

His sister told me he had tendon damage in this (Parm but the was not wing to close his hand. Then she told me cher fiance wanted to speak with me on the phone. Mr. Brin, Billio Sisters fiance threatened me on the phone to come to Ky to, "Fuck everybody up. them Mr. Brim started talking about pairs and suffering and asked what the company was going to do. Then he said he was going to meet us in Arkansen where au equipments is because he was doing to be driving through there and he told me he had something for us when we got there. Then I hung up the phone. tel 13, 200 9

01/20/2007 03:19 FAX

tet 13, 2009 Some foll have

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BUTLER & CO. STORM RECOVERY AND TREE SERVICE INC.

SAFETY MEETING

TOPIC: Proper safe work procedures around downed lines

DATE: 02/08/2009

Discussed safe work practices when working around downed power lines. Do not touch anything until power company gives the ok. Do not damage wires. Be observant of wires to insure they do not become entangled in equipment. Open discussion of line safety.

PRINT NAME SIGNATURE 6, Harven rtrom (dr w Hart putterre h Fontonot ONDOS Joseph Cleveland Share Sperred Gene Buck Tuna Northan Mugrave Muggrave

01/20/2007 03:21 FAX

BUTLER & CO. STORM RECOVERY AND TREE SERVICE INC. SAFETY MEETING TOPIC: Bobeat Safety DATE: 2/9/09 Discussed dangers of working around moving machinery. Operator always Knows where you are. behind moving machinery. Neven aline 10 sannoundings and in fencing. Talked machinery catch winning not 10 safe work proceedures when about villing has discussion of safe work practices. reneral SIGNATURE PRINT NAME IL UNKETT KULANK Hanvell INI Parya Dottorff achh Co. 1/1 ha KEVIA Cavariet nother Picheorco Scotty Rieward Robert Destate 15 Jerem' (OK Destalat Justin Pepitore Andrew Hurt Rondy Smith Josh Sonton + sh font Soseph Cleveland Shane Spence Nathan Musgrave Nothen Musquare

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01/20/2007 03:21 FAX

BUTLER & CO. STORM RECOVERY AND TREE SERVICE INC.

@1010

SAFETY MEETING

DATE: 2/10/09 TOPIC: Chainsaw Safety Discussed dangers of operating a chain saw. Went our safe start proceedures, not to walk with bar lock Proner PANI iscussion on chainson safety,

SIGNATURE **PRINT NAME** 68 .h G. Plunt Caule Deshatels EDCO HY Richard GEDFFRENY Konthe Justin Repitore Randy Smith Andrew Hart Joe pottachle Ranely ShillTh Josh Fontont Joseph Cleveland **battas** Rondy 51000 Josh, Sciiton, T Josh, Sciiton, T John Child Strong Epomee Shave Spence

BUTLER & CO. STORM RECOVERY AND TREE SERVICE INC.

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC: Slips, trips and falls. DATE: 2/11/09 When working 'erusser limbe met al BAC nest Isreak concerning Noeing PILPER ose or PA.U S N.C.L & parts tor Caulo mu Carina len discussion PRINT NAME SIGNATURE OX mper rem.V. [avalue k Scollty Richard Robert Pashotels Scotty Richeved. Rel

Robert Doshotels Gro Freey Koulik Tustin Pepitone Ranely Smith Andrew Hort Jor patacht Jor patacht Jor patacht Joreph Clereland Shame Sperver

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BUTLER & CO. STORM RECOVERY AND TREE SERVICE INC. SAFETY MEETING DATE: 2/12/09 TOPIC: General Safety Talked about how to watch out for each other and anticipate in unless she lines 1. Ch Nerifie grounded 70 hit nothing alscuss lon General **PRINT NAME** SIGNATURE on Harrell home Harvell Ry Cooper 25 NN/ in CAUALCE cg+ill Richard attle Richards GEOTENEY KUNATE Justin Pepitore 6019 Andrew Hart for pattorine Rendy South Rondy Smith Josh Lottert Joseph Cleveland yoh all Shive sparce.



Mr. John Shupp Manager Electrical Branch Division of Engineering Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40602 RECEIVED

FEB 19 2009

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Kentucky Utilities Company Corporate Law 220 W. Main Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202 www.eon-us.com

Jim Dimas Senior Corporate Attorney T 502-627-3712 F 502-627-3367 Jim.dimas@eon-us.com

February 18, 2009

Re: Billy Plunkett Third Party Contractor Contact KU Transmission Circuit 8901

Dear Mr. Shupp:

I am forwarding the attached Investigation Report prepared by Troy Bess regarding the above-referenced incident. This report is being submitted as required by Section 26 of 807 KAR 5:006. Please return file stamped copy in enclosed self addressed envelope.

If you need additional information concerning this incident, please contact me at (502) 627-3712 so I can direct your request to the appropriate person.

Sincerely,

Jim Dimas

JD/blb

Enclosures

KPSC EXTERNAL / INVESTIGATION REPORT

Transmission Line Contact 09-E-017-KU Type of Report **Report Number Troy Bess** February 13, 2009 Investigator Date of Incident **Utility**: Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU") Reference: **Billy Plunkett Third party Contractor Contact KU Transmission Circuit 8901** Location: Between KU Transmission Structure #466 and #465 On the Eastside of Knight Road **Eddyville**, Kentucky

Case Summary

On February 13, 2009 at 10:55 a.m. EST, the KU Dix Dispatch and Transmission System Operation Center received a relay on A-phase of the 161Kv circuit #8901 / Earlington North to Livingston County. Preliminary information indicated that a third party contractor working for Kenergy Corporation, a member of the Touchstone Energy Cooperative, had received a shock and burn due to a contact with the transmission line.

Ken Sheridan, Manager Safety and Technical Training - Energy Delivery, was in contact with the Kentucky Public Service Commission concerning the incident. This contact incident was determined to be a reportable to the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

Investigation

Investigation into the transmission line relay found that Billy Plunkett, an employee of Butler Tree Service / Storm Recovery, Inc., a third party contractor working storm restoration for Kenergy Corporation, had come into contact with the KU 161kV transmission line. As a result of the contact, Mr. Plunkett received

a shock and burns to his right hand and foot, and he was transported to a local hospital and then air-lifted to Vanderbilt University Hospital's Burn Unit for treatment.

Further investigation found that the Butler Tree Service and Storm Recovery Inc. crews were moving broken poles and setting new ones for an existing single phase tap line running along the eastside of Knight Road in Lyon County near Eddyville, Kentucky.

By the time I arrived at the incident site, all Butler Tree Service and Storm Recovery Inc. employees had left the site. I proceeded with my investigation and gathered information from Donnie Phillips, District Manager for Kenergy, who arrived on site shortly after the incident occurred.

According to Mr. Phillips, Mr. Plunkett was working with a crew moving and setting new poles. This crew was operating several small Bobcat skid steer excavators with front attachments being used to set the poles.

According to Mr. Phillips, Butler Tree Service and Storm Recovery Inc. employees stated to him that Mr. Plunkett was holding on to a log chain that had been used to tie and hold the pole in place in the front attachment of a Bobcat. The pole had already been framed with the line equipment and also had the copper pole ground already attached to the pole from top to bottom. As the Bobcat was in motion with the pole straight up in a vertical position, the pole made contact with one of the energized phases of the 161kV line.

It appears that when the top of the pole made contact with the 161kV phase, it went to ground through the pole ground and down to the Bobcat, also energizing the log chain that Mr. Plunkett was holding.

Mr. Plunkett received what appeared to be an entrance wound to the right hand and two exit wounds to the right foot. He was immediately taken to the local hospital from where he was later air lifted to Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Billy Plunkett – Injured 543 Cr. 675 Mountain Home, AR 72653 DOB Hire Date: 2/8/09 Butler Tree Service / Storm Recovery, Inc. 6833 Highway 167 – N Ville Platte, LA 70586 P.O. Box 370 Turkey Creek, LA 70855 (337) 461-2488 1-877-526-7523

Kenergy Corporation, a member of the Touchstone Energy Cooperative 6402 Old Corydon Road Henderson, KY 42420 (270) 826-3991

Kenergy Corporation – Marion, Kentucky, Area Branch Office 703 Main Street Marion, Kentucky 42064

Donnie Phillips - District Manager, Kenergy (270) 704-1304

Measurements of Circuit East of Structure #466 on Eastside of Knight Road

South A-phase to earth -36.64 ft Middle B-phase to earth -36.78 ft North C-phase to earth -37.11 ft South static to earth -51.74 ft North static to earth -50.93 ft

Attachments

- Print of transmission line at that location
- Utility photos of scene
- Record of prior KPSC inspections of the transmission line

DATE OF REPORT: FEBRUARY 18, 2009 END OF REPORT




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813024-R1-036-16A_016.jpg



813024-R1-038-17A_017.jpg



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<u>#1</u>





<u>#3</u>





<u>#5</u>





<u>#7</u>





<u>#9</u>





<u>#11</u>





<u>#13</u>





<u>#15</u>



<u>#16</u>



<u>#17</u>





<u>#19</u>





<u>#21</u>





<u>#23</u>





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Sanford Novick President & CEO Kenergy Corp. P. O. Box 18 Henderson, KY 42419