

Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)

From: PSC - Public Information Officer
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 10:17 AM
To: 'tom moosbrugger'
Subject: your comments in case number 2013-00199 - Big Rivers Electric Corp. rates

Dear Mr. Moosbrugger:

Thank you for your comments regarding the rate increase proposed by Big Rivers Electric Corp. Your comments will be placed into the case file for the Commission's review as it considers this matter. For your reference, the case number in this matter is 2013-00199. Please cite it in any future correspondence regarding this case so that your comments may be readily directed to the case file.

Thank you again for your interest.

Andrew Melnykovych

Director of Communications
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-782-2564 cell:502-330-5981

RECEIVED

By Kentucky Public Service Commission at 10:26 am, Dec 16, 2013

From: tom moosbrugger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2013 9:08 AM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer
Subject: Big Rivers rate increase

This is a horribly mismanaged company, as I am sure you know. They have been scandalized, corrupted, and mismanaged and they should be forced to sell their excess plants to companies that can operate them efficiently. Their competitors sell power at a 30% discount to their price. Their mismanagement contributes to instability in the coal markets which threatens hundreds of jobs in this area. Thank you.

Tom Moosbrugger
Wabash Marine, Inc.
452 Hitesville Rd
Waverly, KY 42462
[REDACTED]

Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)

From: PSC - Public Information Officer
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 10:18 AM
To: 'Schwindel, Leah'
Subject: your comments in case number 2013-00199 - Big Rivers Electric Corp. rates

Dear Ms. Schwindel:

Thank you for your comments regarding the rate increase proposed by Big Rivers Electric Corp. Your comments will be placed into the case file for the Commission's review as it considers this matter. As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2013-00199. Please cite it in any future correspondence regarding this case so that your comments may be readily directed to the case file.

Thank you again for your interest.

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By Kentucky Public Service Commission at 10:26 am, Dec 16, 2013

From: Schwindel, Leah [REDACTED] 1
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 1:49 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer
Subject: Case 2013-00199 public feedback

CASE # 2013-00199.

I am writing in response to the permanent electric rate increase proposal by Big Rivers Electric. While I understand that the company is facing hardship, and is trying to save itself, it is not fair or reasonable to expect all of its customers to absorb its lost revenue. We should not have to pay for electricity that we haven't used.

The area that Big Rivers serves is rural, and industrial. I understand that the proposed rate increase would, in effect, double industrial electric bills. I work at Domtar Paper Company in Hawesville. We have an employee base of approximately 450 people, as well as countless suppliers, contractors and vendors who earn their living by the area industries. If our industrial electric bill doubles, this will raise our cost of production to the point that we will no longer be competitive in the industry, even within our own corporation. Higher electric rates will not only affect our electricity costs, but our suppliers, vendors and contractors as well. Their billing rates will also have to go up to make up for their higher bills, further affecting our production costs. As we all know, everything in life is "Survival of the Fittest." This especially applies to business. If we produce paper at a higher cost than the other mills in the country, we will lose our business to them.

In 2004, (we were known as Weyerhaeuser then) we learned this painful lesson first hand. Our Corrugated Medium Mill was closed, and all the orders were absorbed by other mills within the Weyerhaeuser corporation. Over 100 employees lost their jobs. The economic impact of the lost revenue to not only this county, but the surrounding counties, was huge. Over 100 employees had to live on Unemployment Compensation, some for more than a year, with many entering retraining programs, all of which were funded by the State of Kentucky. Eventually most of the displaced workers found other jobs in the area, many in our surrounding industries. The fact that the other industries were able to absorb much of the unemployed workforce at that time helped a great deal in cushioning the area counties, schools and small businesses from their own hardships, and lessened the impact of the possibility of permanent lost revenue.

With the proposed rate increase, this could very possibly put all area industry in jeopardy. Without that large revenue base coming in from industry, what will be left? A lot of unemployed people in Western Kentucky, with no prospects of finding work, and who will be a burden on the state for some time to come. Schools are already struggling, and with less revenue coming in from industry, they will have to rely on the state to help them out.

I have touched on the working population and industry of Western Kentucky. The elderly and infirm have already felt the hardship of rising costs of everything, from their medicines, to food. In many cases, these people have to make a choice between having a good meal or getting their medicine. Many have air conditioning but cannot afford to use it. They close up their homes and live in one room to save heating costs. How can we possibly stand by and see them take on more hardship just to lighten the burden of one Company? Please keep in mind that this rate increase is so much larger than just one small company staying in business.

Leah Schwindel
Domtar Paper Company
Engineering Administrative Assistant
ph: 2 [REDACTED]
fax: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]

Melnykovich, Andrew (PSC)

From: PSC - Public Information Officer
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 10:19 AM
To: 'Shepherd, Diana'
Subject: your comments in case number 2013-00199 - Big Rivers Electric Corp. rates

Dear Ms. Shepherd:

Thank you for your comments regarding the rate increase proposed by Big Rivers Electric Corp. Your comments will be placed into the case file for the Commission's review as it considers this matter. As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2013-00199. Please cite it in any future correspondence regarding this case so that your comments may be readily directed to the case file.

Thank you again for your interest.

Andrew Melnykovich

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RECEIVED

By Kentucky Public Service Commission at 10:24 am, Dec 16, 2013

From: Shepherd, Diana [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 8:15 AM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer
Subject: Case 2013-00199 public feedback

To Whom it May Concern,

Hello, my name is Diana Shepherd and I live in Lewisport, KY and work at Domtar in Hawesville, KY. I am writing this email with much concern about the proposed rate increases to our electricity bills. I live in a home that is 100 years old. My husband and I do everything we can to make it as energy efficient as possible. We can't afford a higher electricity bill at home. This rate increase proposal will also greatly affect my employer. The electric rate where I work will increase over 100% which will make our company less cost effective. That is not a good position to be in. The paper industry is struggling as it is. We need to remain low-cost to our overall company or we could be in jeopardy! We can't afford to be placed in a category where we could lose our jobs! About 500 people here along with their families depend on our incomes. I also have many family members and friends who are on fixed incomes and, quite simply, can not afford any kind of increase. They are in a panic right now trying to figure out how they are going to survive if this increase is approved. None of us can afford this unfair increase. Please, don't punish all of us for the bad business practices of a select few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Shepherd
610 Pell Street
Lewisport, KY 42351