

From: Bruner, Brandon S (PSC)
To: LG&E / PPL
Subject: LG&E / PPL
Date: Friday, August 20, 2021, 2:26:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thank you for your comments on the application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter: 2020-00350 in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2020-00350 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards

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Kentucky Public Service Commission
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Frankfort, KY 40601

From: Chandler, Kent (PSC) <Kent.Chandler@ky.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021, 2:23 PM
To: Bruner, Brandon S (PSC) <brandon.bruner@ky.gov>
Subject: FW: LG&E / PPL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021, 1:04 PM
To: Chandler, Kent (PSC) <Kent.Chandler@ky.gov>; Cabbage, Amy D (PSC) <amy.cabbage@ky.gov>; Cook, Larry (KYOAG) <larry.cook@ky.gov>; McNeil, Justin M (PSC) <justin.mcneil@ky.gov>
Cc: 'John Cox' <John.Cox@ky.gov>; 'Caroline Clay' <Caroline.Clay@ky.gov>; 'Thomas Clay' <Thomas.Clay@ky.gov>; 'Monroe Ashley' <Monroe.Ashley@epa.gov>; 'Mark G. Atkins' <Mark.G.Atkins@usace.army.mil>; 'Scott A. Spellmon' <Scott.A.Spellmon@usace.army.mil>; 'CommissionerLee' <CommissionerLee@sec.gov>; 'CommissionerBoisman' <CommissionerBoisman@sec.gov>; 'CommissionerCrenshaw' <CommissionerCrenshaw@sec.gov>; 'Lulu Massaro' <Lulu.Massaro@pur-ri.gov>
Subject: LG&E / PPL

All

I am Kimberly Brown, a mom with a generational farm in Bullitt County. I am also an LG&E ratepayer with 100,000 pages of court discovery relevant to Louisville Gas & Electric Company's most recent rate hike request currently before the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Unfortunately, I had to sign a gag order to get the discovery.

Given LG&E's monopoly status, their never-ending requests for rate increase and the fact that this current request is backlit by a global pandemic resulting in unimaginable hardship for Kentucky families and businesses while LG&E's parent company (private for profit) PPL continues to provide fantastic returns for those wealthy enough to be its investors thanks to the ever-open checkbook of Kentucky families/LG&E ratepayers.

I thank God for those of you who have intervened in this latest rate case on behalf of Kentucky families and am grateful to the Attorney General for his intervention and so grateful to the Kentucky Public Service Commissioners and staff for asking LG&E to answer questions. I asked my 12-year-old if the words "detailed analysis" were ambiguous. She had zero trouble with the concept.

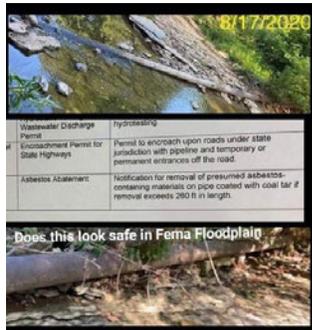
Given the 100,000 pages of court discovery I have read, the Attorney General and the Public Service Commission need to seriously investigate LG&E's frivolous spending of our money with absolute reckless abandon to the detriment of Kentucky families, Kentucky's farm families, lands providing refuge to our US Veterans battling suicidal tendencies, LG&E/PPL's attempted taking of Bernheim Forest Conservation land, the destruction of a known slave cemetery, our public safety, and the taking (for private gain) of our shared environmental resources. LG&E needs to consider the consequences of its actions and the risks to the financial wellbeing of all Kentucky families and businesses (not just the businesses on LG&E's Big Boy List who are the greatest consumers of LG&E's electricity, gas, and coal). The Ohio River is the dirtiest water body in the country and yet LG&E can just pollute our creeks with coal tar for years on end and not one government agency cares.

According to LG&E testimony to the Kentucky Public Service Commission: "LG&E did not try to hide the pipeline from the public view by including it in Rate Case No. 2016-00371 as Bernheim's brief suggests...As the Commission's August 20, 2019 Order noted, LG&E's increase in gas rates was partially based on the proposed capital expenditures for the project. Inclusion of testimony about the project within the 2016 rate case was therefore entirely appropriate."

Keep in mind, the rate increase happened but the pipeline was never built due to the fact that LG&E can't get the necessary permits from the US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS and LG&E's permits from the Division of Water are in question before The Office of Administrative Hearings, Energy & Environment Cabinet due to the extreme dangers of this pipeline that will run through sinkholes, karst terrain, known mapped floodplains, areas with unstable ground prone to landslides. So what happened to all the money from the rate increase of 2016 that was never spent to construct the pipeline?

Other impacted utility companies have been warning LG&E for years that LG&E's chosen "unstudied" route is wrought with dangers like unstable karst terrain riddled with sinkholes, with experienced slip failures, steep slopes, dangers of explosion due to co-location of LG&E's proposed pipeline with existing High Voltage Electrical Infrastructure, all of which could lead to another explosion like in Lincoln County, killing people as well as creating mass forest fires in Bernheim and in private forests as well.

Court Discovery shows that LG&E knows and has known that their decades-old Calvary line, which currently runs through 53 miles of Kentucky soil and waterways, is coated with coal tar and asbestos. At some point, the coal tar will become public knowledge and the Public Service Commission will have no choice but to ask LG&E to clean it up. Who will pay the cost of this expensive abatement? Will the cost get buried in some big "Capital Project"? Will it get buried in the next rate case? According to news articles, Rep. Marino has received monies from PACs of companies that have lobbied on the FACT ACT and at least \$148,000 from PACs of companies with known asbestos liability. His largest contributor among asbestos interests was the PAC of guess who?? It is the Calvary Line, still unable to pass the most basic of federal safety standards? My guess is yes, due to the fact that it isn't even covered in dirt anymore and is floating and disintegrating in our waterways, waterways that poor people are dependent upon and that cattle drink because these people have no city water. Seriously open an investigation. The vast majority of discovery is protected. Watching LG&E Attorney Kendrick Riggs before the Kentucky Public Service Commission yesterday again claiming privilege made me sick. "We have a flood, an explosion...". Talking about the lives, the human lives, as just a potential claim is unbearable to watch. Again, if LG&E lost its monopoly status, I believe Kentuckians' lives, livelihoods, and homes would no longer be reduced to a "pay out amount" by LG&E and its approximately \$8 million a year attorney's fees (paid for by the very ratepayers being sued, condemned, and threatened.)



Absolute power corrupts absolutely and in LG&E's case, the absolute power over our power (their monopoly status) has and continues to harm Kentucky and places our public safety at risk. Kentuckians need choice in utility providers as well as green renewable energy sources. While the rest of the world is turning toward the future and renewable energy sources, LG&E is impacting 80 farms in Bullitt County in addition to Bernheim and permanently destroying approximately 40 acres of forest, endangering species for a fossil fuel source that is in its end stages of life. Lands that solar farms currently have leases on and would love to pay fair price for, actually creating the jobs of the future for Kentucky workers. Solar companies who's projects would add additional energy without ratepayer funding.

LG&E argues that our county needs gas and if there is no gas economic development will stop. According to the infamous Jim Beam Suntory Timeline, Jim Beam Suntory and LG&E began planning this pipeline, which we all know now, 100% of the gas will go to Jim Beam Suntory for the first 2 years and 98 to 95% for the next 3 years after that in 2015. Most enlightened companies in 2021-2022 don't want natural gas. The largest sale of warehouse space in Bullitt County occurred just a few months ago for a staggering \$95 million dollars. Doesn't appear the "lack of gas" is hurting the county.

LG&E uses our money, ratepayer money, to hire the most accomplished professionals in their fields to silence everyday people who voice opposition to LG&E's plans, projects, and rate increases.

LG&E just for the month of November spent one dollar shy of \$140,000 on lawyers just to prepare LG&E executives to testify to try and get this rate increase passed.

LG&E has and is spending a ton of money both on in-house people and outside ad agencies on multiple fronts to try and combat the immense public outcry over the condemnation of Bernheim Forest Conservation land and our farmland. A couple of LG&E emails attached.

LG&E also hired a full-time person to target, track, and try and silence Bullitt County residents opposing the pipeline on social media. Again, using the people's money to silence the people's voices, there are some interesting Jim Beam Suntory emails too.

Cathy Hinko brilliantly wrote in her comment to the Public Service Commission: Capital Projects need to be heavily scrutinized. I agree and would add especially those that LG&E initially told Jim Beam Suntory they would have to pay \$27 million for and when Jim Beam said no, the ratepayers got hit with the cost and our cost is out of control. Why did the pipeline go from \$20 something million to \$74 million plus. I have some ideas.

LG&E just hired Dentons Bingham Greenbaum, the largest law firm in the world with 1,100 lawyers to fight Kentucky farm families trying to protect their children from water contamination, leaks, and explosions in a Division of Water hearing currently before the Energy & Environment Cabinet (where the people have no legal representation). This is after LG&E paid a team of attorneys from Dinsmore Scholl for years to fight moms, farm families, and Bernheim Forest in our case against the Division of Water. Why is it ok for LG&E to spend ratepayer money on vast teams of attorneys for years putting on the Division of Water's case? The state is supposed to provide oversight yet it's working in tandem with LG&E against the people of Kentucky who can't afford representation.

LG&E drilled deep wells hundreds of feet deep all over our county in secret without obtaining a single permit. Due to the karst terrain neighboring farms where drilling occurred are now reporting sinkholes. Read this email from Steve Beatty lead Engineer on the Pipeline Project. How much are the payouts to farmers for the theft of their mineral rights and natural gas? This particular well spewed gas for days on end. These deep wells were never inspected. We know one wasn't sealed properly. Who will pay for potential future water contamination? LG&E ratepayers?

To: Purvis, Greg[Greg.Purvis@lge-ku.com]; 'Chris Music' [REDACTED] Thomas, Lauren[Lauren.Thomas@lge-ku.com]; Cummins, Michael[Michael.Cummins@lge-ku.com]; Stephens, Malcolm[Malcolm.Stephens@lge-ku.com]; Scott Spidel - Emerald Energy [REDACTED]
Cc: Simmons, Damien[Damien.Simmons@lge-ku.com]; Rieth, Tom[Tom.Rieth@lge-ku.com]; Kuriger, Jeff[Jeff.Kuriger@lge-ku.com]; Fitzgerald, Chris[Chris.Fitzgerald@lge-ku.com]; McGuire, David[David.McGuire@lge-ku.com]
From: Beatty, Stephen
Sent: Fri 10/26/2018 5:44:49 AM
Subject: Bullitt Geotechnical Well

All: Thank you for your assistance on the Bullitt County geotechnical well gas pocket issue. The issue should be resolved; the native gas has dissipated so the chance of landowner calls is unlikely. I believe everyone has a P/T for their labor; if not, please let me know.

Chris Music: Scott Spidel knows what we need to do to address the Slow Poke Farm's possible losses. He was present when I was given directions. Do you think we can resolve any compensation when Jeff returns from vacation?

I cannot thank people enough for making my life easy on this matter

Thanks again,
Steve

To: Phillips, Brian[Brian.Phillips@lge-ku.com]
From: Messmer, Alexis
Sent: Wed 9/25/2019 11:04:54 AM
Subject: RE: Reviewing Bullitt County Facebook Groups

You were right! Below are definitions pulled from a social media tool's webpage.

Hiding the Facebook comment will keep it hidden from everyone except that person and their friends. They won't know that the comment is hidden, so you can avoid potential fallout.

Deleting the Facebook comment will erase it; no one will be able to see it. The user will know that the negative comment has been deleted if they go to view it again, but they won't be notified of its deletion.

Banning users will keep that particular user from commenting on any of your posts ever again. This is a good move for users that are unreasonable and seem to enjoy leaving negative comments every chance they get, or for users who drop spam or offensive content on your posts.

From: Phillips, Brian <Brian.Phillips@lge-ku.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 9:27 AM
To: Messmer, Alexis <Alexis.Messmer@lge-ku.com>; Whelan, Chris <Chris.Whelan@lge-ku.com>
Cc: Collins, Natasha <Natasha.Collins@lge-ku.com>; Pratt, Liz <Liz.Pratt@lge-ku.com>; Lowry, Daniel <Daniel.Lowry@lge-ku.com>; Colberg, Lauren <Lauren.Colberg@lge-ku.com>
Subject: RE: Reviewing Bullitt County Facebook Groups

Thanks Lexi!

I also spoke with Kevin, and our ad has driven since yesterday about 1,000 visits to the /Bernheim page. That number jumps to nearly 1,500 total visits when you count visits from employees.

So, as we wanted to happen, more folks are clicking through and reading our information rather than engaging in a back and forth in the comments section.

We'll keep responding to the rational people but won't be feeding any negativity.

From: Messmer, Alexis <Alexis.Messmer@lge-ku.com>
Date: September 25, 2019 at 9:14:23 AM EDT
To: Phillips, Brian <Brian.Phillips@lge-ku.com>; Whelan, Chris <Chris.Whelan@lge-ku.com>
Cc: Collins, Natasha <Natasha.Collins@lge-ku.com>; Pratt, Liz <Liz.Pratt@lge-ku.com>; Lowry, Daniel <Daniel.Lowry@lge-ku.com>; Colberg, Lauren <Lauren.Colberg@lge-ku.com>
Subject: RE: Reviewing Bullitt County Facebook Groups

Good morning everyone,

LGE0

Lexi Messmer is an in house hired social media strategist who is of course paid for with rate payer dollars to drive people (rate payers) voicing their opinions on social media to pages which appear to be educational in nature but are really designed and controlled by LG&E. The "Bernheim page" referred to was not created by Bernheim. Lots of money being spent on outside Public Relations and Advertising Firms. I have lots of emails. Why we can't buy from anyone else? Wouldn't that money be better used for subsidies for people struggling to pay their bills in a global pandemic? I find it really wrong for LG&E to target and track everyday people who disagree with LG&E projects and I find it equally vile that rate payer monies pays for this. Eric Bannon named in this one email is just a hardworking everyday normal family man concerned about the fact that the pipeline will run through earth that quakes every time Fort Knox does military drills. Many of the concrete foundations of houses in the pipeline

path have cracks due to Fort Knox Blasting. I have Jim Beam Suntory emails where lists of us voicing our concerns have been emailed to a private email address belonging to Bullitt County Judge Executive (tenured Jim Beam Suntory Executive). The LG&E/PPL/JIM BEAM SUNTORY Pipeline is the most sickening example of social injustice. This is only happening because the people impacted are poor.

Kimberly Brown

The FB ads picked up quickly last night, due in part to the first two attachments (Eric Bannon tagged people from the Bullitt Countians for Justice page on the ad).

Ad 1 now has 29 reactions, 113 comments, and 16 shares, which picked up quickly from 10 reactions, 4 shares and 11 total comments as of 4:15 p.m. on 9/24.

Ad 2 now has 9 reactions, 5 comments and 6 shares. The ads have been live since 4:24 p.m. on Monday, 9/23.

We will continue to monitor. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Lexi

From: Messmer, Alexis

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 3:02 PM

To: Brian Phillips (Brian.Phillips@lge-ku.com) <Brian.Phillips@lge-ku.com>; Whelan, Chris <Chris.Whehan@lge-ku.com>

Cc: Natasha Collins (Natasha.Collins@lge-ku.com) <Natasha.Collins@lge-ku.com>; Pratt, Liz <Liz.Pratt@lge-ku.com>; Lowry, Daniel <Daniel.Lowry@lge-ku.com>

Subject: Reviewing Bullitt County Facebook Groups

I have been reviewing the Bullitt County specific Facebook groups and wanted to share two posts I came across. The first may be a good point of reference to how rowdy the group might be Downtown on Friday. This guy is also pretty active on the Bullitt County uncensored page I've been reviewing for a bit this afternoon. The second post is from the Bullitt Countians for Justice page admin. Since published on Sept. 21, I have not seen any other post related to offline private communication he asks for in that final sentence.

I will keep this email open with any other details I may find. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Lexi

Lexi Messmer

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