

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN ELECTRONIC EXAMINATION OF THE)	
APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT)	CASE NO.
CLAUSE OF LOUISVILLE GAS & ELECTRIC)	2022-00039
COMPANY FROM MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH)	
OCTOBER 31, 2021)	

ORDER

On April 15, 2022, Louisville Gas & Electric Company (LG&E) filed a petition, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13, and KRS 61.878, requesting that the Commission grant confidential treatment for five years for redactions from documents it filed in response to Commission Staff's First Requests for Information (Staff's First Request), Items 4 and 21.

The Commission is a public agency subject to Kentucky's Open Records Act, which requires that all public records "be open for inspection by any person, except as otherwise provided by KRS 61.870 to 61.884."¹ In support of its petitions, LG&E argued for the application of KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1), which exempts from disclosure "[r]ecords confidentially disclosed to an agency or required by an agency to be disclosed to it, generally recognized as confidential or proprietary, which if openly disclosed would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the entity that disclosed the records." Exceptions to the free and open examination of public records contained in KRS 61.878

¹ KRS 61.872(1).

should be strictly construed.² The party requesting that materials be treated confidentially has the burden of establishing that one of the exceptions is applicable.³

LG&E's responses to Staff's First Request, Items 4 and 21, included redacted documents containing coal bid analysis. LG&E argued that disclosing this information would allow potential bidders to manipulate the bid solicitation process to the detriment of LG&E and its ratepayers by tailoring bids to correspond to and comport with LG&E's bidding criteria and process.

Having considered the petition and the material at issue, the Commission finds that LG&E's petition should be granted. Disclosure of coal solicitation information could affect future bidding, allowing competitors and suppliers to gain an unfair advantage by having access to LG&E's solicitation strategies and bids. This type of information was previously held confidential by the Commission.⁴ The Commission finds that the designated materials are records that meet the criteria for confidential treatment and are exempted from public disclosure for five years pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1) and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. LG&E's petition for confidential treatment is granted.

² See KRS 61.871.

³ 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2)(c).

⁴ Case No. 2018-00019, *Electronic Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. from May 1, 2017 Through October 31, 2017* (Ky. PSC May 29, 2018), Order at 2.

2. The designated material granted confidential treatment by this Order shall not be placed in the public record or made available for public inspection for five years or until further Order of this Commission.

3. Use of the designated material granted confidential treatment by this Order in any Commission proceeding shall comply with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(9).

4. LG&E shall inform the Commission if the designated material granted confidential treatment by this Order becomes publicly available or no longer qualifies for confidential treatment.

5. If a nonparty to this proceeding requests to inspect the material granted confidential treatment by this Order and the period during which the material has been granted confidential treatment has not expired, LG&E shall have 30 days from receipt of written notice of the request to demonstrate that the material still falls within the exclusions from disclosure requirements established in KRS 61.878. If LG&E is unable to make such demonstration, the requested material shall be made available for inspection. Otherwise, the Commission shall deny the request for inspection.

6. The Commission shall not make the requested material available for inspection for 30 days from the date of service of an Order finding that the material no longer qualifies for confidential treatment in order to allow LG&E to seek a remedy afforded by law.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman

Vice Chairman


Commissioner



ATTEST:


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