

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

* * * * *

In the Matter of:

WESTERN KENTUCKY GAS)
COMPANY BUDGET BILLING) CASE NO. 7577
UNDER REGULATION)
807 KAR 50:015)

O R D E R

On September 18, 1979, Western Kentucky Gas Company (Applicant) filed with this Commission its application requesting an extension of time until June 1980 to implement its budget billing plan required by 807 KAR 50:015.

On October 2, 1979, pursuant to Order of this Commission, a hearing was held in this matter at which the Applicant appeared and presented testimony in support of its application. The Attorney General's Division of Consumer Protection moved to intervene, appeared, and cross-examined Applicant's witness.

On October 22, 1979, after the closing of the record in the above-styled case, the Attorney General's Division of Consumer Protection filed its Motion seeking permission to file a brief in this matter. The Commission, by Order dated November 2, 1979, sustained the Motion and ordered the brief to be submitted on or before November 15, 1979. The brief was filed on November 15, 1979, and made a part of the record herein. The case was then submitted to the Commission for final determination.

The Commission, after considering the matters set forth in the Applicant's verified application, and the testimony produced at the hearing, is of the opinion and FINDS that:

1. The Applicant serves some 119,000 residential customers who would be eligible for any budget billing plan instituted by Applicant.
2. Manual accounting for the possible volume of customers to apply for budget billing would be an undue burden upon the Applicant.
3. To program the Applicant's computer to handle the accounting of budget billing would require extensive programming and consume approximately one man-year of effort.

4. The computer system must be tested for accuracy before implementation.

5. The Applicant is, upon application by its customers, presently conducting a program of a type of budget payment which is done on a customer-by-customer basis.

6. Applicant's customers will be permitted to enter its budget plan at any time during the year and will not be restricted to a limited enrollment period.

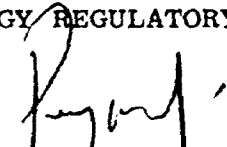
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, that the Applicant is granted an extension of time until June 1, 1980, to implement its budget billing plan required by 807 KAR 50:015.

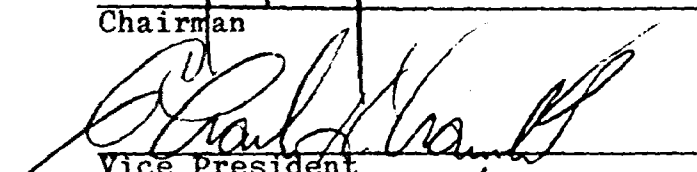
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Applicant file with this Commission no later than April 1, 1980, its plan for budget billing in compliance with 807 KAR 50:015.

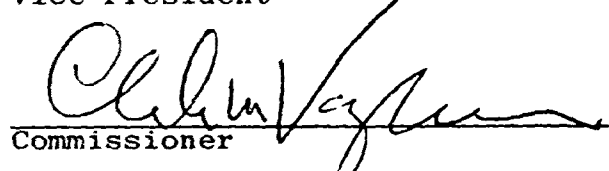
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that if the Company receives no notice from the Commission that said plan is disapproved, the Company shall make known to its customers the availability of its plan and place said plan in full operation no later than June 1, 1980.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky this 6th day of February, 1980.

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice President


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Acting Secretary