

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE NECESSITY)
AND USEFULNESS OF AND THE COST)
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HANGING)
ROCK-JEFFERSON 765-KV TRANSMISSION) CASE NO. 8904
LINE UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY KENTUCKY)
POWER COMPANY)

O R D E R

On November 14, 1983, Residential Intervenors filed a motion requesting the Commission to investigate certain safety issues related to the Hanging Rock-Jefferson 765-KV transmission line. Kentucky Power Company ("KPC") is constructing this line pursuant to a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("certificate") issued by the Commission on May 17, 1974.

The motion admits that the health and safety consequences of the transmission line and the adequacy of rights-of-way were not issues in 1974. However, it alleges that recent scientific and medical "[s]tudies have purported to find a link between KHV line magnetic fields and increased risks of cancer and suicide." (Motion, p. 2.) The motion argues that if health and safety problems do materialize, the ultimate cost will be passed on to KPC's ratepayers.

On November 18, 1983, KPC filed a response alleging that the motion is based on speculation about future events. KPC points out that the construction is virtually complete and argues that

investor reliance on certificated projects requires the need for finality.

On November 28, 1983, Residential Intervenors filed a reply to KPC's response. The reply stresses that the intent of the motion was not to modify or revoke the certificate to construct but merely to demonstrate the prudence of an investigation of health and safety issues.

Based on the evidence of record and being advised, the Commission is of the opinion and hereby finds that:

1. Construction of the Hanging Rock-Jefferson 765-KV transmission line is substantially complete.

2. The issues of health and safety consequences of the transmission line and adequacy of rights-of-way do not arise out of facts or conditions underlying the issuance of the certificate in 1974.

3. Residential Intervenors' motion admits that research studies of the safety aspects of 765-KV lines have produced conflicting results.

4. Residential Intervenors' motion fails to allege sufficient grounds to support an investigation of the health and safety consequences of the 765-KV line.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Residential Intervenors' motion to initiate an investigation of the health and safety consequences of the Hanging Rock-Jefferson 765-KV line be and it hereby is denied.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 2nd day of December, 1983.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Secretary