

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE AUTHORITY OF LOUISVILLE        )  
GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY TO        )  
ESTIMATE BILLS                        )        CASE NO. 8975

O R D E R

On January 26, 1984, the Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E") filed a request, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:006 Section 24, for authority to deviate from its rules to permit customer bills based on estimated meter readings when LG&E experiences difficulties which make actual meter readings impossible or impracticable. LG&E states that estimating bills is a necessary part of the business of a utility and that it employs sophisticated computer techniques which enable bills to be estimated with considerable accuracy. Estimated bills provide LG&E with a regular cash flow and benefit ratepayers who might otherwise not be able to pay for 2 or more months usage at one time.

LG&E refers to its General Rule No. 19, contained in its filed tariffs, as authority to render estimated bills when it is "unable to read a customer's meter after reasonable effort." Since General Rule No. 19 can be interpreted to permit estimated bills only when a customer's action or inaction prevents an

actual meter reading, LG&E believes a deviation is necessary to avoid such an interpretation.

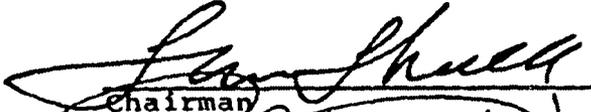
The Commission is of the opinion and hereby finds that LG&E has demonstrated that good cause exists to deviate from its tariffs to permit estimated bills when LG&E experiences difficulties making actual meter reading impossible or impracticable.

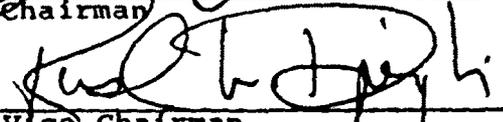
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that LG&E be and it hereby is granted a deviation to estimate customers' bills when LG&E's circumstances make actual meter reading impossible or impracticable.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that with 30 days of the date of this Order, LG&E shall file a revised tariff to reflect the deviation granted herein.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 9th day of February, 1984.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Secretary