

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN INVESTIGATION OF BIG RIVERS)
ELECTRIC CORPORATION'S RATES) CASE NO. 9885
FOR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE)

O R D E R

On July 9, 1987, Alcan Aluminum Co. ("Alcan") filed a motion requesting that the hearing scheduled for July 28, 1987, be deferred for at least 30 days after: (1) Big Rivers Electric Corporation ("Big Rivers") files its report in compliance with the Commission's Order entered March 17, 1987; and, (2) Arthur Andersen and Co. files its final audit reports. The basis for the motion are the need for adequate time to prepare for the hearing, the need to afford an opportunity, subsequent to receipt of the final audit reports, for further negotiations on a flexible smelter rate, and the need to expand the hearing to include the unresolved issues from Case No. 9613, Big Rivers Electric Corporation's Notice of Changes In Rates And Tariffs For Wholesale Electric Service And of a Financial Workout Plan.

On July 15, 1987, Big Rivers filed a response in opposition to rescheduling the hearing. Big Rivers alleges, among other reasons, that delay "imperils any prospects for refinancing and enhances the prospects of foreclosure. (Big Rivers' Response at 2) National-Southwire Aluminum Co. ("NSA") filed a response on July 17, 1987, requesting the Commission to issue a revised procedural

schedule and to order full disclosure of all negotiating sessions. Big Rivers answered NSA's response by objecting to any rescheduling of the July 28 hearing and stating that all negotiating sessions were conducted on a confidential basis and that confidentiality should not be breached.

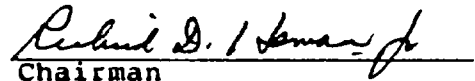
The Commission held a formal conference on July 24, 1987, at which time all parties had an opportunity to present oral argument in support of their respective positions. The Commission finds that a postponement of the hearing for seven days will reasonably accommodate the needs of all parties and that good cause does not exist to order the disclosure of negotiations held on a confidential basis.


IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The hearing in this case, scheduled for July 28, 1987, be and it hereby is postponed to August 4, 1987.
2. NSA's Motion requesting full disclosure of the negotiating sessions be and it hereby is denied.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 5th day of August, 1987.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director


Commissioner