

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

MEADE COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE CORPORATION, INC.)

and)

BRANDENBURG TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.)

CASE NO.
89-257)

ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY
WITH COMMISSION REGULATIONS)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, Inc. ("Meade County RECC"), which engages in the distribution of electricity to the public for compensation, for light, heat, power, and other uses, is a utility under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Brandenburg Telephone Company, Inc. ("Brandenburg"), which engages in the transmission over wire of messages by telephone for the public, for compensation, is a utility under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

KRS 278.280(2) directs the Commission to prescribe rules and regulations for the performance of services by a utility. Pursuant to this statutory directive, the Commission promulgated Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, which requires electric utilities to maintain their plants in accordance with the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code (1981 edition),

and Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:061, Section 2, which requires telephone utilities to do likewise.

Commission Staff has submitted to the Commission an Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report dated August 21, 1989, attached hereto as Appendix A, which alleges:

1. On August 4, 1989, Matthew Rosebush was severely burned when an aluminum pole with which he was playing came into contact with a 7200 volt single phase overhead line owned and maintained by Meade County RECC.

2. At the time of this incident, the electric utility lines in the immediate area of the incident, the 7200 volt single phase overhead line and a neutral conductor, both owned and maintained by Meade County RECC, failed to meet the minimum vertical clearance standards for above-ground wires and conductors as established by National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232A. The communications conductor in the immediate area of the incident, which was owned and maintained by Brandenburg, also failed to comply with these standards.

3. Meade County RECC violated Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, by failing to comply with the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code.

4. Brandenburg violated Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:061, Section 2, by failing to comply with the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code.

WHEREFORE, the Commission, on its own motion, HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. Meade County RECC and Brandenburg shall each submit to the Commission a written response to the allegations contained in the Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report within 20 days of the date of this Order.

2. Meade County RECC and Brandenburg shall appear on November 8, 1989, at 1:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room No. 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purposes of presenting evidence concerning the incident which is the subject of the Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report, specifically the alleged violations of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, and 807 KAR 5:061, Section 2, and of showing cause, if any they can, why they should not be subject to the penalties of KRS 278.990 for their alleged failure to comply with Commission regulations.

3. The Electrical Utility Accident Investigation Report dated August 21, 1989, is hereby made a part of the record of this case.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 19th day of September, 1989.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director


Commissioner

APPENDIX A
APPENDIX TO AN ORDER
OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
IN CASE NO. 89-257 DATED 9/19/89

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

DATE OF THIS REPORT 8/21/89 SUBMITTED BY Jeffery L. Gilpin
NAME OF UTILITY Meade County RECC
ACCIDENT REPORTED BY Beavin Thornsberry
DATE & TIME UTILITY LEARNED OF ACCIDENT 8/4/89 9:15 P.M.
DATE & TIME ACCIDENT REPORTED 8/7/89 11:19 A.M.
DATE AND TIME ACCIDENT OCCURRED 8/4/89 9:00 P.M.
DATE OF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION 8/7/89
DATE SUMMARY WRITTEN REPORT WAS RECEIVED FROM UTILITY 8/9/89
PERSONS ASSISTING IN THE INVESTIGATION Jeff Embry of Meade County
RECC.

NAME OF VICTIM(S) 1. Matthew Rosebush SEX M AGE 10
FATAL No NAME OF EMPLOYER: N/A
INJURIES Third degree burns to the abdomen and hands.

2. _____ SEX _____ AGE _____
FATAL _____ NAME OF EMPLOYER: _____
INJURIES _____

3. _____ SEX _____ AGE _____
FATAL _____ NAME OF EMPLOYER: _____
INJURIES _____

ELECTRICAL UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (Continued)

LOCATION OF ACCIDENT SITE On the Hillgrove Road in Meade County at Meade County RECC account #11-009-15.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT Victim and several other children were playing with an aluminum tent pole in the lawn between their homes. Apparently one of the children threw the pole across the primary conductor and when it fell it made contact with the victim. The primary and neutral conductors of Meade County RECC's electric distribution line and the communications conductor belonging to Brandenburg Telephone Company, Inc. appeared to have inadequate clearance due to a joint use anchor pulling loose.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Jeff Embry-Meade County RECC; Meade County RECC Summary Written Report; an onsite inspection; telephone conversation with Mrs. Joseph Rosebush.

VIOLATIONS OF COMMISSION REGULATIONS The primary conductor (13'7"), the neutral conductor (11'0") and the communications conductor (7'7") at Meade County RECC account #11-009-15 do not meet the minimum vertical clearance as required by 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3(1) and the 1981 NESC Table 232-1(4).

RECOMMENDATIONS It is recommended that the Commission consider action against the utilities in accordance with KRS 278.990(1).

CORRECTIVE ACTION Meade County RECC installed a new anchor and re-
sagged the neutral and primary conductors on 8/7/89. (See Attachment
C)

LINE CLEARANCES

	<u>As Measured</u>	<u>Minimum Allowed by NESC</u>
A. AT POINT OF ACCIDENT		
Phase conductor to ground elevation:	<u>13'7"</u>	<u>21'1"</u>
Neutral conductor to ground elevation:	<u>11'0"</u>	<u>19'1"</u>
Communication conductor to ground elevation:	<u>7'7"</u>	<u>19'1"</u>
Phase conductor to structure:	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Neutral conductor to structure:	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Communication conductor to structure:	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
B. AT LOWEST POINT OF SPAN		
Phase conductor to ground elevation:	<u>13'7"</u>	<u>21'1"</u>
Neutral conductor to ground elevation:	<u>11'0"</u>	<u>19'1"</u>
Communication conductor to ground elevation:	<u>7'7"</u>	<u>19'1"</u>

C. SPAN LENGTH 360'

Date the line or facilities were constructed: November, 1975

Utility: Meade County RECC

Date: 8/7/89 Time 1:15 P.M.

Approximate temperature: 70 Degrees F

Measurements made by: Jeffery L. Gilpin

Submitted by: Jeffery L. Gilpin

Attachment B


 Meade County

Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation

P.O. Box 367-Brandenburg, Kentucky 40106

August 8, 1989

Jeff Gilpen
 Kentucky Public Service Commission
 730 Schenkel Lane
 Frankfort, Ky. 40602

Dear Mr. Gilpen:

An electrical contact accident occurred at approximately 9:00 P.M. August 7, 1989, in the Hill Grove area of the Meade County Rural Electric system.

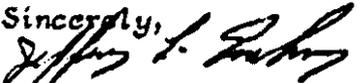
Upon notification, the Meade Co. R.E.C.C. service crew of James Miller (Journeyman-Lineman) and Mark Bruner (Apprentice Lineman) proceeded to the residence of Joseph Rosebush, map location #11-009-15. The crew was informed by a neighbor, Mrs. Eric Riggs, that a neighbor child, Matthew Rosebush, had been shocked while playing with a steel tent post that had come in contact with the wire in the yard. The Rosebush family was not available at that time.

While inspecting the area, it was noted that an anchor had given way allowing the 7200V primary to sag to the height of 14'3".

The Cooperative later learned that Matthew Rosebush had obtained burns on both arms and around his waist. Master Rosebush was taken to Kosair Children's Hospital for observation.

The Public Service Commission was notified of the accident August 7, 1989. Mr. Jeff Gilpen of the PSC arrived and promptly investigated the scene of the incident. Following the investigation, new guys and new anchors were installed to rectify the situation.

Enclosed are copies of the repair order and inspection records of the line section involved.

Sincerely,

 Jeff Embrey, Coordinator
 Operations Department

CC: Beavin Thornberry
 Meade Co. RECC

William Corum
 Meade Co. RECC

Greg Morgan
 K.A.E.C.

REPAIR SERVICE ORDER

Meade County RECC

11-7-23

Attachment C

Date 8-6-89

Nº 8792

Name Joseph 117 Ranch Road Acct. No. 11-9-15-16
Address _____
Meter # _____ Trans # _____ Size _____

Reported Condition to J.K.
Break in line to low Remove wire leave pole
ADD Guy wire on H.C.

Work Done
Put in new poles and wire
Remove wire

Completed by [Signature] Date 8-6-89

[Signature]

AIRCRAFT LINE INSPECTION REPORT
BRANDENBURG AREA

Date: 6-16-89

Location: County: MADE/ARCA
Circuit: _____

Substation: _____
Phase: _____

Employees 1. _____ 2. _____ Time: _____

Maint Deficiencies Found and Location

Maint W. O. Date Completed

1. Pole top had H-1 at
5-47-12 S.O. 16979

1. Repaired 1-6-89

2. Broken Yell - A-5 at
5-25-10 S.O. 16980

2. Replaced Yell
1-6-89

3. Neutral down at
5-69-6 S.O. 16981

3. Wire gone needs new wire
1-6-89

4. R/W needs clearing at
5-8-57 S.O. 16982

4. cut & trimmed trees
7-1-88

5. R/W needs clearing at
5-67-4 S.O. 16983

5. to cut later 1-6-89

6. Broken Yell A-5 at
11-22-2 S.O. 16984

6. muddy - needs bucket
1-6-89

7. Neutral down @ 11-14-2
S.O. 16985

7. Repaired 12-5-88

8. _____

8. _____

9. _____

9. _____

10. _____

10. _____

General Remarks: _____

AIRCRAFT LINE INSPECTION REPORT

Date: 6-16-88

Location: County: _____

Substation: _____

Circuit: _____

Phase: _____

Employees 1. _____

2. _____ Time: _____

Maint Deficiencies Found and Location

Maint W. O. Date Completed

1. Neutral down at 17-5-7
S.O. 16969

1. Repaired 12-2-88

2. Broken strand A-1 at 47-72-33
S.O. 16970

2. repaired 12-2-88

3. Neutral down @ 47-91-10
S.O. 16971

3. Repaired 12-2-88

4. R/W need clearing at
47-65-6 S.O. 16972

4. Out R/W 8-10-88

5. Broken tell at 47-72-12
S.O. 16973

5. Repaired 1-9-89

6. R/W need clearing at
46-69-2 S.O. 16974

6. _____

7. Broken strand N-A²
at 46-55-3 S.O. 16975

7. Repaired 12-2-88

8. Bad joint A-3 @ 458-10
S.O. 16976

8. Pol in OK 12-2-88

9. A-2 Insulator at
4575 S.O. 16977

9. Replaced Insulators
1-9-89

10. Left top pin broken over A-1
at 4-9-4 S.O. 16978

10. Repaired 12-5-88

General Remarks: _____

AIRCRAFT LINE INSPECTION REPORT

Date: 6/16/88

Location: County: Mass/Brock
Circuit: _____

Substation: _____
Phase: _____

Employees 1. _____ 2. _____ Time: _____

Maint Deficiencies Found and Location

Maint W. O. Date Completed

- 1. Neutral down at
12-44-3 S.O. 16959
- 2. Bad pole A-1 at
12-33-6 S.O. 16960
- 3. Tree on line at 11-20-3
S.O. 16961
- 4. Broken strand - P at
11-059-002 S.O. 16962
- 5. Broken tell at 11-63-3
S.O. 16963
- 6. Bad pole A-1 at 11-74-4
S.O. 16964
- 7. Neutral down at 11-43-3
S.O. 16965
- 8. Neutral down at 17-95-1
S.O. 16966
- 9. guy broke at 17-75-3
S.O. 16967
- 10. Broken strand at 17-27-4
S.O. 16968

- 1. Repaired 12-13-88
- 2. Repaired 1-9-89
- 3. removed tree
12-13-88
- 4. Repaired 1-9-89
- 5. couldn't find broken tell
1-9-89
- 6. Pole changed 1-16-89
- 7. _____
- 8. Repaired 1-89
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

General Remarks: _____

11-7-23

REPAIR SERVICE ORDER

Meade County RECC

Date 8-6-87

N^o 8792

Name Joseph 17 Boushuck Acct. No. 11-9-15-41-6

Address _____

Meter # _____ Trans # _____ Size _____

Reported Condition to T.K.

Break in line to low pressure wire level pole
ADD Guy wire on pole

Work Done

Put in new anchor and replace
Reconnect wire

Completed by B.W. Date 8-1-87

