

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION)
)
 _____) CASE NO. 91-444
)
 ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH)
 COMMISSION REGULATIONS)

O R D E R

On February 18, 1994, Big Rivers Electric Corporation ("Big Rivers") filed a motion requesting the Commission to modify subparagraph 17(c) of the Stipulation filed April 1, 1992 and adopted by Commission Order dated April 10, 1992. Subparagraph 17(c) states:

All cutting or welding within 25 feet of the tank will be forbidden until the contents of the tank have been removed and neutralized and the area has been tested and found to be explosive-free. Proper written safety instructions will be given to any employees assigned to this task.

The requested modification is to delete the phrase "the contents of the tank have been removed and neutralized and"

Big Rivers states that all sulfuric acid tanks have been relocated outdoors and, with one exception, the tanks have been lined with an acid resistant coating to prevent the production of hydrogen gas. In addition, the acid transfer and feed lines have been replaced with acid resistant alloys or lined steel. Big Rivers believes that it is costly, time-consuming, and unnecessary

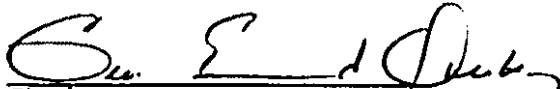
to remove and neutralize sulfuric acid from a tank upon which no cutting or welding will be done.

The Commission finds that the modifications performed by Big Rivers will extend the life of the acid tanks and improve the safety environment in their vicinity. However, the fact remains that sulfuric acid is a hazardous material whether or not hydrogen is present. Cutting or welding within 25 feet of an acid tank should be considered a hot permit in a hazardous area requiring the tank to be evacuated and purged. Therefore, Big Rivers' motion should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Big Rivers' motion to modify subparagraph 17(c) of the Stipulation filed on April 1, 1992 be and it hereby is denied.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 16th day of March, 1994.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director