1	IN THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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4	IN RE:
5	Case No. 2003-00433 AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE GAS AND ELECTRIC RATES,
6	TERMS, AND CONDITIONS OF LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
7	
8	and
9	Case No. 2003-00434
10	AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE ELECTRIC RATES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS OF THE KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY
12	* * *
13	^ * *
14	SWORN STATEMENT
15	OF
16	JOE F. CHILDERS, JR.
17	(TELEPHONICALLY)
18	AUGUST 2, 2005
19	received
20	8/19/25
21	INIIDENI T MTITED D D
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7	<u>APPEARANCES</u>
8	SPECIAL GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE
9	COMMISSION:
10	JONATHAN D. GOLDBERG, ESQ. Goldberg & Simpson 3000 National City Tower
11	101 South Fifth Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202
12	Dodisville, Reneacky 40202
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1	The sworn statement of JOE F. CHILDERS,					
2	JR., taken telephonically in the offices of Goldberg &					
3	Simpson, 101 South Fifth Street, Suite 3000,					
4	Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of					
5	August, 2005, at approximately 11:15 a.m.					
6						
7	* * *					
8						
9	JOE F. CHILDERS, JR., after first being					
10	duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:					
11						
12	EXAMINATION					
13						
14	BY MR. GOLDBERG:					
15	Q. Would you state your full name,					
16	please, sir.					
17	A. Joe Francis Childers, Jr.					
18	Q. And your business address?					
19	A. 201 West Short Street, Suite 310,					
20	Lexington, Kentucky, 40507.					
21	Q. All right, sir. And your occupation?					
22	A. Attorney at law.					
23	Q. All right, sir. Are you in private					
24	practice?					
25	A. I am. I'm self-employed.					

1 0. What is the name of your organization? 2 Α. Law Offices of Joe F. Childers, LLC. 3 Q. Are you familiar with the two rate 4 cases, one filed on behalf of KU and one filed on 5 behalf of LG&E? Notice of filing was in November of 6 I actually filed December of 2003. 2003. 7 Α. Yes. 8 Ο. Did you represent a party in those 9 particular rate cases before the Public Service 10 Commission? 11 Yes, I represented two parties. 12 Ο. All right, sir. Could you tell me who 13 they were? 14 The Community Action Council for 15 Lexington and other surrounding counties and the 16 Kentucky Association For Community Action. 17 Q. All right, sir. Had you had occasion 18 to represent both entities before? 19 Α. Yes. 20 Had you ever represented them in front 0. of the Public Service Commission before? 21 22 Α. Yes, I have. 23 Was that a representation that was 24 over the course of several years prior to November of 25 2003?

1 Α. Yes. Had you participated -- had you 2 0. 3 represented these two entities in rate cases before to 4 your knowledge? 5 I believe I had, yes. 6 Do you possess an expertise in matters 7 before the Public Service Commission? 8 Α. Not really. I usually perform a role 9 that is on behalf of the community action community, I 10 quess. It's a limited role. I don't really get 11 involved in, you know, the real technical matters 12 related to rate cases. 13 All right, sir. 0. I have 14 euphemistically heard your representation and the 15 folks over in Louisville's representation as 16 representing those of the lower income people. 17 that a fair observation? 18 Α. That's a fair observation. 19 community action agencies do represent the interests 20 of their constituency, which is the low income 21 community. 22 Q. All right, sir. Tell me when you 23 first became aware that KU and LG&E were intending to 24 file a rate case. 25 Α. You're testing my memory. Do you have

1 the dates when you actually filed? 2 The notice of filing, as I I do. 3 communicated before, was in November of 2003, and the actual date of filing would have been late December of 4 5 2003. It would have been right around the 6 Α. 7 notice of filing. Around the fall of 2003. 8 0. And do you recall how you first 9 learned of the filing? 10 I think from my clients. 11 All right. The actual first informal 12 conference was April 28th, 2004. Prior to the 13 informal conference had you done any work on this 14 matter, i.e., sent out document requests, prepare 15 experts for testimony, or anything such as that? 16 Α. Can I put you on hold for a second and 17 consult my billing records? 18 Sure. Q. 19 That would give me a better idea. Α. 20 All right, sir. Ο. 21 (RECESS) 22 Α. I'm looking at my billing records. 23 looks like January of 2004 I had some involvement, 24 mainly in looking over the procedural schedules. I 25 did have a meeting with LG&E in Louisville on January

29th, 2004. In February 2004 I completed an initial data request for LG&E and KU, reviewed some filings and orders in February. In March I reviewed the answers that I had gotten back to the data request on March 22nd. I reviewed my client's testimony at that time and revised it the next day.

1.3

So, yes, I guess to answer your question, I did have some involvement prior to April.

Q. All right, sir. As you know, the purpose of our inquiry is to determine contacts and communication.

Between the time the rate case was filed in December of 2003, and using the April 28th, 2004 informal conference date, did you have any communication with the staff of the Public Service Commission?

A. Okay. I want to take a minute so that I'm -- everything I have is pretty much written in my time billing record. And I don't -- other than what I've got in my time billing records, I do not recall any specific conversations with anyone from the Public Service Commission. So let me take a second and review this.

- Q. All right, sir.
- A. According to my billing records and my

independent recollection, no, I did not have any 1 2 conversations with anyone at the Public Service Commission. 3 And breaking that down into two 4 components. I take it you had no conversations with 5 any member of the staff? 6 7 Α. That's correct. And I further take it that you had no 8 Ο. 9 conversations or communication with any of the 10 commissioners themselves? That is correct. 11 12 All right, sir. Have we covered Q. everything prior to the informal conference of April 13 28th, 2004? 14 15 Α. Yes, we have. 16 Let's move to that date. Do you Q. recall being in attendance on that day? 17 Yes, I was. 18 Α. All right, sir. And tell me what you 19 Q. 20 recall, if anything, of the events of that day. 21 Α. I drove to Frankfort, I attended the 22 prehearing settlement conference, I met with my clients, and I returned. As I recall, it was a fairly 23 24 long conference. It looks like it lasted several hours in Frankfort. 25

1 Q. All right, sir. Did you have opportunity, either before or after the prehearing 2 3 conference, to engage in any settlement discussions with any of the parties? 4 5 Α. Any of the parties? 6 Q. Yes, sir. On that day. 7 It's possible that I did, you know, Α. with some of the parties. Particularly with the LG&E 8 9 and KU representatives. 10 Q. Okay. 11 But I don't recall any specific 12 settlement conference discussions with anyone else. 13 All right, sir. Other than Q. 14 communicating on the record with either the 15 commissioners or the staff, did you have any 16 communication other than that with any staff member or 17 commission member on April 28th, 2004? 18 Α. No. 19 Now, do you have a recollection or any 0. 20 time sheet entries dealing with this matter for the 21 dates April 29th? 22 Yes, I do. Α. 23 All right, sir. Can you tell me what 24 course of action you took related to this matter on 25 April 29th.

1 Α. On April 29th I met with my clients, I met with the attorney general's representative, I met 2 3 with the attorney for the Legal Aid Society in 4 Louisville, I attended the settlement conference in Frankfort, and met with my client after that, again, 5 for several hours. It looked like it was quite a long 6 7 settlement conference. Your records are self-explanatory 8 Ο. 9 except for who attended the settlement conference. 10 Can you recall? 11 Well, I don't recall specifically. Α. 12 I'm sure there was a sign-in sheet that would indicate 13 I know that -- it looks like Ms. Blackford for that. 14 the attorney general's office was there. 15 Kilkelly was there, I believe, from the Legal Aid 16 Society. I'm sure that LG&E and KU had several 17 attorneys there and representatives from their companies. 18 19 Are you showing this settlement 20 conference having taken place at the Public Service 21 Commission? 22 Α. I'm showing it in Frankfort. I assume that it was at the Public Service Commission. 23 Fair enough. Do you have a 24 Q. 25 recollection of any member of the staff being present

1 on that day at those discussions? 2 Well, if I'm not mistaken, I believe 3 Richard Raff was present. 4 Ο. Okay. And was he present with all 5 others of the interveners at LG&E and KU personnel? 6 As far as I can recall, yes. 7 0. Do I take it you had no sidebar or 8 other conversation with Mr. Raff other than in the 9 presence of the intervening parties at LG&E/KU? 10 Α. That's correct. 11 All right, sir. Do you have a 0. 12 recollection of anybody else from the staff other than 13 Mr. Raff being present on that day? 14 I'm not positive a hundred percent. 15 think that Mr. Scott may have been present. 16 0. You're familiar with Mr. Isaac Scott? 17 Α. Yes. 18 Q. And do you know Mr. Jeff Shaw? 19 Α. No, I don't believe I do. 20 You have a recollection of Mr. Scott 0. 21 being present on the 29th, I take it? 22 Α. I don't really have an independent 23 recollection. I know he was in attendance at several 24 meetings in different cases, and I don't want to say that he was definitely there that day. 25

1 0. Fair enough. 2 April the 30th, which would have been in Louisville, Oaks Day, the day before the Kentucky 3 Derby, do you have a recollection of having 4 participated in discussions with regard to the two 5 6 rate cases on that day? 7 Α. No, I don't, and I don't have any time 8 records that indicate that I did. 9 0. And you have no present recollection of that? 10 11 Α. No. 12 Next date I am indicating that there Q. 13 were participants dealing with the issues of the two 14 rate cases is May the 3rd, 2004. Do you have any entries in your time records or any recollection prior 15 16 to May 3rd, 2004, other than what we've talked about? No, I sure don't. 17 Α. May the 3rd, 2004, did you come 18 ٥. Okay. 19 to the Public Service Commission and participate on 20 that day? 21 What date? Α. 22 May the 3rd. Q. 23 Α. No, I did not. 24 Q. Okay. Let me ask you the same 25 question -- well, let me ask you this. Do you have

any recollection of having discussed any of the issues 1 in the rate case with any member of the staff on May 2 the 3rd, 2004? 3 No, I don't. Α. 4 And I probably failed to do this. 5 Q. take it you did not talk to any of the commissioners 6 7 about these cases either on the 28th, 29th, 30th or any date prior or May 3rd, 2004; am I correct? 8 Α. That's correct. 9 May the 4th, are you showing your 10 appearance or do you recall your appearance at the 11 Public Service Commission to talk about these issues 12 13 on that day? 14 Α. No, I don't. Let me check my records closely. Hold on just one second. I'll put you on 15 16 hold. I'll be right back. (RECESS) 17 I was able to review my records. 18 19 Ο. All right, sir. And are you showing 20 anything from May the 4th, 2004? I am not showing any further time 21 Α. records on this case, on this rate case, until July of 22 2004. 23 Does that indicate to you that you 24 Ο. made no other appearances after -- well, your records 25

1 indicate no other appearances after the April 28th, 2 2004 informal conference? After the April 29th. 3 Α. I'm sorry. Are you showing April 4 Q. Oh, you participated April 29th in settlement 5 29th? 6 discussion. 7 Yes. We talked about that. Yes, sir, we did. 8 Ο. 9 So I take it you were not present at any of the hearings where evidence was actually given; 10 11 am I correct? Refresh my memory of the dates of 12 Α. 13 that. 14 Q. All right, sir, I will. 15 Testimony was actually given on the record on May 4, 5, 6 and a little bit on the 12th. 16 17 Okay. I stand corrected. I was 18 present during those days or at least some of those 19 days, and for some reason I'm not able to lay my hands on my time records for that period. I thought I had a 20 21 complete set here, but I apparently don't. 22 I take it other than your time 0. records, you have no other records that would indicate 23 24 conversations or what you did on a particular day or 25 who you talked to?

1	A. I may have some handwritten notes as I					
2	sat in the hearing. Mainly my participation was very					
3	limited at those rate hearings and I sat in the					
4	audience for the most part. So I may have some					
5	handwritten notes. I don't have those in front of me.					
6	Q. All right. Fair enough.					
7	Do you have a recollection of having					
8	participated in settlement discussions on any of those					
9	days, May 4, 5, 6 and/or 12?					
10	A. Yes, I believe I did.					
11	Q. And tell me your recollection of who					
12	you were communicating with on those days.					
13	A. On those dates I was communicating					
14	with other representatives of the low income					
15	community, particularly Lisa Kilkelly and her clients					
16	from Louisville, my clients from Frankfort and					
17	Lexington, then particularly with the attorneys and					
18	the representatives from the two companies, LG&E and					
19	KU.					
20	Q. Do you have a recollection of having					
21	communicated with other members of the intervening					
22	group?					
23	A. Yes. Including the industrial					
24	customers.					

1 Α. KIUC. 2 Let's see if we can agree on the geography, if you will, of the situation. I have been 3 advised that there was a larger hearing conference 4 room where all interveners, KU, LG&E, and some members 5 of the PSC staff, met and had their discussions and 6 7 that there was at least one break-out room as it 8 relates to KU, LG&E and North American Stainless. Do 9 you agree with my description so far? 10 I think that's right, yes. All right, sir. Now, do you recall 11 Q. 12 there being other break-out rooms, or was that the only one where there was a separate negotiation? 1.3 14 I think the only room that I 15 participated in any negotiations was the large room, 16 which is actually the -- I think it's Hearing Room No. 2. 1.7 18 0. Yes, sir. 19 Directly behind Hearing Room No. 1. Α. 20 Q. That is correct. 21 Now, do you recall communicating with the staff who you previously described to us on any of 22 those days? 23 I do not recall that. I recall 24 25 discussions with the parties, but not with the staff.

1	Q. Fair enough. Do you have a				
2	recollection that the staff was actually present?				
3	A. I recall from time to time, you know,				
4	that a staff person might pop into the room.				
5	Q. Okay.				
6	A. You know, but I don't I don't				
7	recall having any particular discussions with that				
8	staff person or staff persons.				
9	Q. Fair enough. And I take it that no				
10	commission member appeared, as best you can recall, in				
11	any of the discussions that you attended?				
12	A. That's true. I never saw a commission				
13	member in any of the settlement discussions.				
14	Q. Do you have a recollection of the day				
15	or days that the attorney general himself, Mr. Stumbo,				
16	came to the proceedings?				
17	A. Yes.				
18	Q. And did you have an opportunity to				
19	communicate with him at that time?				
20	A. Yes, I did.				
21	Q. Okay. Can you tell me your				
22	conversation with him?				
23	A. I recall sitting in the hearing room				
24	during the hearing and sat beside Mr. Stumbo and had a				
25	brief discussion with him. I do recall also having a				

discussion with Mr. Stumbo in a separate room along with one of his staff attorneys concerning the particular interests of my clients. That was in a separate room and not Hearing Room No. 2.

- Q. All right, sir. Other than those two conversations, any other conversations with the attorney general?
 - A. No.
- Q. Generally, can you tell me the sum and substance of the two conversations?
- A. As I recall sitting in the hearing room during the hearing, I sat beside Mr. Stumbo and joked with him, I think, that things were -- that he had raised the ante or something with his, you know, appearance, that any attorney general had never appeared there before. And that was more or less a joking matter, because I had known Mr. Stumbo when he was a legislator.

And then the other meeting with him was in a small room. I recall that it was attended by Dennis Howard, a member of his staff and myself and Mr. Stumbo, and somebody else from Mr. Stumbo's office may have been there, I can't recall. It seems like there was a female.

We talked about, you know, whether we

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1
      could get the attorney general's support for a low
2
      income program that we were lobbying for as part of
      the settlement. I recall the attorney general was
3
      somewhat hesitant to give that support initially, but
4
      the longer we talked the more we were able to convince
5
      him that it was a good thing.
6
 7
               Q.
                      How long was your meeting?
8
                       Probably no more than ten minutes.
                       I take it you eventually agreed with
 9
               0.
      the settlement; am I correct?
10
                       That's correct.
11
               Α.
                       And do you believe both conversations
12
               Q.
13
      with the attorney general were prior to your
14
      agreement?
                       Yes.
15
               Α.
                       Using our dates here, May 3, 4, 5 and
16
               0.
      6 and May 12th, do you have a recollection of when
17
      you, on behalf of your clients, came to agreement in
18
19
      this matter?
20
                       With the attorney general --
               Α.
                       No, sir.
21
               0.
                       -- or with all the parties?
22
               Α.
                       With all the parties. Do you know
23
               Q.
24
      what day that would have been?
                       I believe that it would have been
25
               Α.
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toward the end of the hearing. I don't want to give a particular date. I don't think it was the May 12th date. I think we had an agreement in principle prior to that. Probably the 5th or something.

- Q. All right, sir. Do you recall whether or not you attended all the hearings of the matter -- the two matters?
 - A. I don't believe I did.
- Q. Okay. Were you present on a day when Mr. Raff on the record recited the fact that he had been listening to the radio and the attorney general had made an allegation of ex parte conduct and collusive and inappropriate behavior? Were you present?
- A. I don't recall hearing Mr. Raff say that.
 - Q. All right, sir.
- A. I do recall being in the room when the attorney general's representative -- and I believe that that was Ms. Blackford -- told the commission that the attorney general after having participated in the settlement discussions, you know, could no longer support the settlement, or something along those lines. I remember it being, you know, pretty startling testimony -- or not testimony but just, you

know, conversation while the commission was in 1 This was on the record. You know, she 2 session. indicated that there -- that -- I can't recall how she 3 phrased it, but I know that there was a statement made 4 5 that the attorney general was filing, I believe, a motion to dismiss or something. 6 Okay. So that I'm clear, do you 7 Q. remember this being part of the settlement discussions 8 or do you remember it being on the record in front of 9 the commissioners? 10 On the record in front of the 11 commissioners. 12 All right. Did this occur after your 13 0. clients had agreed to settle? 14 I believe it did. 15 Α. 16 All right, sir. And you remember that Q. 17 being on the record. Were you present in Hearing Room 2 when members of the attorney general's staff 18 indicated that the attorney general could no longer 19 support a settlement agreement at a certain number? 20 21 Α. I do believe I was present, yes. And so that I'm clear, what you're 22 23 communicating is it occurred a second time on the 24 record in front of the commissioners? I believe so. I believe that occurred 25 Α.

after we learned of it in the Hearing Room No. 2. 1 Do you believe it was on the same day? 2 0. It seems like it was. 3 Fair enough. Q. Now, did you come back on May the 5 6 12th, or can you distinguish between May 6th -- the events of May 6th and the events of May 12th? 7 Α. I'm having a difficult time 8 distinguishing that in my mind without further 9 refreshing my memory. 10 Fair enough. With regard to all of 11 Ο. the proceedings, do you have any recollection of any 12 13 conversation ever with any of the commissioners? Not with the commissioners, no. 14 And other than what you've already 15 Q. 16 told me about your conversations with the staff, do you have any recollection of any other conversations 17 18 with the staff? You know, I believe that I and some of 19 20 the other members of the low income community, particularly Ms. Kilkelly, myself, possibly one or two 21 of our clients, I believe we did have a meeting, and 22 this occurred in the vending machine room in the 23 24 basement of the commission during the settlement discussions. 25

I know that there were a couple of 1 representatives from LG&E there with us discussing 2 settlement, and I'm thinking -- although I could be 3 wrong -- I'm thinking that either Mr. Raff or someone 4 else from the staff came to that settlement discussion 5 6 to give their viewpoint on what we were trying to 7 accomplish. But all the parties were there, you know, in settlement discussions. And it seems like we had 8 9 some sort of input, I guess it was, from the staff. Did you settle as a result of that 10 0. 11 particular meeting, or do you recall? 12 I know that that meeting helped things Α. 13 along quite a bit, because we got an idea of the way that the staff was looking at it and the way that the 14 15 parties were looking at it. I think it did help us 16 ultimately. And am I interpreting your comments 17 Q. 18 that this was a meeting in the vending machine room 19 with LG&E/KU personnel and your client and 20 Ms. Kilkelly? 21 Α. Yes. 22 All right. Now, was the result of 0. 23 that conversation reported back to the group as a 24 whole? 25 Α. Yes, at some point it was.

Q. All right. Fair enough. 1 Other than that conversation that 2 you've just referenced, do you have any recollection 3 of any other conversations with the staff from April 4 28th, 2004 through May the 12th, other than what 5 6 you've already told me? 7 Α. No, I don't. Now, while I know that you understand 8 Q. the concept of ex parte, being a lawyer, being 9 communication, can we agree upon that? 10 11 Α. Yes. 12 0. And I'm taking it from your testimony 13 you never saw -- well, you never participated in any ex parte communication or saw, were present at any 14 15 time when there was an ex parte communication; am I 16 correct? 17 Α. With the commissioners? 18 Q. Yes, sir. No, I was not. 19 Α. 20 And do I take it that other than what Q. 21 you've told me about your communication with the staff, you're aware of no other ex parte 22 communication; am I correct? 23 24 Α. That's correct. Further, the communications, as I 25 Q.

1	understand it, you had with your staff were either in					
2	front of the other intervening parties or were					
3	reported to the other intervening parties as in the					
4	last conversation we talked about?					
5	A. Yes, that's true.					
6	Q. Now, while one can argue what the					
7	terms collusive and inappropriate are, and that's					
8	personal to folks, did you yourself witness anything					
9	during your participation in these two rate cases					
10	which you personally believed to be evidence of					
11	collusive behavior or inappropriate conduct?					
12	A. No, I did not.					
13	MR. GOLDBERG: All right, sir. That's					
14	all I have. I thank you very much for your time. I					
1.5	recognize this is out of your ordinary day-to-day work					
16	activity and we appreciate it.					
17	We will get this statement out to you,					
18	and if you would send it back to me, I'd be much					
19	appreciative.					
20	THE WITNESS: I will do that.					
21	MR. GOLDBERG: Thank you, sir.					
22						
23	(SWORN STATEMENT CONCLUDED AT 11:45 A.M.)					
24						
25	* * *					

I, the undersigned, JOE F. CHILDERS, JR., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing sworn statement and that, to the best of my knowledge, said sworn statement is true and accurate, with the exception of the corrections, if any, listed on the errata sheet. JOE F. CHILDERS, JR. Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of / loverber, 2005. My commission expires

1	STATE OF KENTUCKY) (
2	COUNTY OF JEFFERSON) (
3	I, LAUREN I. MILLER, Notary Public,					
4	State of Kentucky at Large, hereby certify that the					
5	foregoing sworn statement was taken at the time and					
6	place stated in the caption; that the appearances were					
7	as set forth in the caption; that prior to giving					
8	testimony the witness was first duly sworn by me; that					
9	said testimony was taken down by me in stenographic					
10	notes and thereafter reduced under my supervision to					
11	the foregoing typewritten pages and that said					
12	typewritten transcript is a true, accurate and					
13	complete record of my stenographic notes so taken.					
14	I further certify that I am not related					
15	by blood or marriage to any of the parties hereto and					
16	that I have no interest in the outcome of captioned					
17	case.					
18	My commission as Notary Public expires					
19	March 26, 2009.					
20	Given under my hand this the 17^{n+} day					
21	of Sugust, 2005, at Louisville, Kentucky.					
22						
23	James & Meler					
24	LAUREN I. MILLER NOTARY PUBLIC					
25	MOTHKI LODDIC					

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