

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

TARIFF FILING OF FLEMING-MASON)
ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC. TO) CASE NO. 2013-00142
AMEND ITS SERVICE CHARGE)

COMMISSION STAFF'S INITIAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TO FLEMING-MASON ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.

Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, Inc. ("Fleming-Mason"), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, is to file with the Commission the original and six copies of the following information, with a copy to all parties of record. The information requested herein is due within 14 days of the date of this request. Responses to requests for information shall be appropriately bound, tabbed and indexed. Each response shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided.

Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Fleming-Mason shall make timely amendment to any prior response if it obtains information which indicates that the response was incorrect when made or, though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect. For any request to which

Fleming-Mason fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, it shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond. Careful attention shall be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible.

1. Describe the type of meters currently in use on Fleming-Mason's system, state when they were deployed, and describe their capabilities.

2. State whether all of Fleming-Mason's meters are currently being read remotely. If not, explain why not and state how many meters are not being read remotely.

3. State whether Fleming-Mason's meters are capable of disconnecting and reconnecting service remotely, or whether it is necessary to add equipment to the meter to do so. If additional equipment is necessary, provide a description of the equipment, the equipment's cost and useful life, and the number of devices Fleming-Mason has already purchased and intends to purchase.

4. Refer to proposed PSC 3, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 8, Section 3. Service Charge, subsection a., from which Fleming-Mason is proposing to delete the word "trip." State whether the \$25 fee to collect a delinquent account involves a trip to the customer's residence. If not, provide cost justification for the \$25 fee.

5. Refer to proposed PSC 3, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 9, Section 3. Service Charge, subsections b. and d.

a. Provide cost justification supporting the \$25 fee when a meter is reconnected remotely.

b. State whether the overtime fee of \$65 would apply when a meter is reconnected remotely. If yes, provide cost justification for the \$65 to reconnect a meter remotely after hours.

c. State whether the \$25 fee would apply when a meter is disconnected.

6. Refer to proposed PSC 3, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 9, Section 3. Service Charge, subsection e.

a. State the number of customers who have expressed concerns about having an automated meter installed.

b. State the number of customers who have refused to have an automated meter installed.

c. Provide cost justification for the \$25 fee to read the meter of a customer who refuses an automated meter.

d. Can the currently installed meters be read manually? If not, would it be necessary for Fleming-Mason to change out the meters for customers who choose, under the tariff, not to use the automated meters?

e. If Fleming-Mason is required to change meters, provide the related cost and state whether Fleming-Mason plans to require the customers that opt for manual meter reading to bear the cost of changing meters.

f. Explain why any customer should be allowed to refuse an automated meter.

g. Describe the efforts Fleming-Mason has made to encourage those members who do not wish to be metered using an automated meter to acquiesce to the

use such a meter. Discuss or describe in detail the information Fleming-Mason has provided to the customers who refuse an automated meter.

h. For the customers who refuse an automated meter, state whether Fleming-Mason will manually read each meter monthly.

i. State whether Fleming-Mason has considered giving customers who refuse an automated meter the option of having their meters estimated every other month, or on another schedule, in order to reduce the cost to Fleming-Mason and the customer.

j. State whether Fleming-Mason believes it may be possible to reduce cost by having its employees obtain meter readings for customers who refuse an automated meter while in the field addressing other utility related issues.

k. Has Fleming-Mason provided notice to its customers of the proposed \$25 charge pursuant to 807 KAR 5:011, Section 8? If yes, provide a copy of the notice and proof of publication. If no, state when Fleming-Mason intends to publish notice.

7. Provide the amount of meter reading expense included in Fleming-Mason's current base rates and provide the test year from which it was determined.

8. Refer to proposed PSC 3, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 8, Section 3. Service Charge. Fleming-Mason proposes to delete the text of former subsection a. which establishes a \$25 service charge on a customer for the utility to read a meter that the customer has failed to read for three consecutive billing periods.

a. Explain the difference between the services provided in the text of former subsection a. which Fleming-Mason proposes to delete, and the services provided under the proposed subsection e.

b. Explain why Fleming-Mason previously charged \$25 for a service call to read a customer meter every three months, but now proposes to charge \$25 to read a customer meter on a monthly basis.

9. 807 KAR 5:006, Section 7(5) contains regulations pertaining to the frequency of meter reading. Specifically Section 7(5)(a)-(b) reads as follows:

(5) Frequency of meter reading. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, each utility, except if prevented by reasons beyond its control, shall read customer meters at least quarterly; (b) Each customer-read meter shall be read manually, at least once during each calendar year.

a. State whether Fleming-Mason currently has, or has had in the past, customers whose meter readings, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:006, Section 7(5)(a), may have been taken either quarterly or annually, for reasons beyond Fleming-Mason's control.

b. If so, state whether those customers were charged an additional fee as a result of Fleming-Mason's inability to access the meter on a monthly basis.

10. Fleming-Mason is currently a party to Case No. 2012-00428, an administrative case established by the Commission to consider the implementation of Smart Grid and smart meter technologies in Kentucky. In this case, the Commission has asked parties to address whether or not the deployment of smart meters should

allow an opt-out provision for customers.¹ Explain whether Fleming-Mason believes that a Commission decision to accept the requested revisions to its tariff could be construed as a decision on the opt-out issue currently being discussed in Case No. 2012-00428.

a. If yes, explain whether Fleming-Mason believes that it would be appropriate for its proposed tariff revisions to be placed on hold until the Commission has addressed the opt-out issue in Case No. 2012-00428.

b. If no, explain why a decision in this case, which involves an opt-out provision for customers of a single electric utility, should precede a decision in a case with the same issue applicable to the customers of all Kentucky jurisdictional electric utilities.



Jeff Derouen
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Public Service Commission
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DATED MAY 15 2013

cc: Parties of Record

¹ Case No. 2012-00428, Consideration of the Implementation of Smart Grid and Smart Meter Technologies, Commission Staff's First Request for Information, questions 114 and 116 (Ky. PSC Feb. 27, 2013).

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