

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

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

ORDER

On February 27, 2013, Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, Inc. ("Fleming-Mason") filed with the Commission revised tariff sheets proposing revisions to its current Service Trip Charge in instances where service is to be discontinued. Fleming-Mason proposes to change the word "trip" to "service" in instances involving (1) the collection of a delinquent bill after written notice has been sent to the customer; (2) reconnection of a meter that has been disconnected for nonpayment of bills or for violation of Fleming-Mason's rules and regulations either during regular working hours or for overtime hours; (3) a request for a meter test if such test shows that the meter was not more than two percent fast or slow; and (4) reconnection at the same locations when the meter is off due to the desire of the customer either during regular working hours or after regular working hours. All of these revisions consist of minor text changes that do not result in any change in rates and they do not need to be noticed to Fleming-Mason's customers. In addition to these text changes, Fleming-Mason proposed to introduce a \$25.00 monthly charge for reading meters of those customers who choose not to allow an Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") meter to be installed. The proposed tariffs contained an effective date of May 1, 2013.

On April 25, 2013, the Commission suspended the tariff for five months, up to and including September 30, 2013. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by and through his office of Rate intervention ("AG"), was granted intervention on May 14, 2013. Because Fleming-Mason's proposed tariff changes included a new \$25.00 meter-reading charge for customers who choose not to allow an AMI meter, on July 19, 2013, the Commission ordered Fleming-Mason to provide notice to its customers of the proposed tariff changes. Commission Staff issued, and Fleming-Mason responded to, two information requests; and an informal conference was held on August 22, 2013.

On August 27, 2013, Fleming-Mason filed a motion to withdraw without prejudice that portion of its proposed tariff which would impose a monthly charge of \$25.00 to read the meter of a customer that refuses to allow an automated meter to be installed at its location(s). Fleming-Mason further requests authority to submit an application in the future to re-file this service charge in the manner proposed in this proceeding in the event this issue is not addressed in the ultimate report and subsequent Orders of the Commission in Case No. 2012-00428.<sup>1</sup> Fleming-Mason further moves the Commission for an expedited Order.

Fleming-Mason stated at the informal conference that it will begin deployment of AMI meters in November 2013. Out of the 24,000 AMI meters Fleming-Mason intends to purchase, 1,000 will have remote reconnect and disconnect capability.<sup>2</sup> As a result of

---

<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2012-00428, Consideration of the Implementation of Smart Grid and Smart Meter Technologies, initiated as an Administrative Case by the Commission (initiated on October 1, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> Fleming-Mason Energy's Response to Commission Staff's Initial Request for Information, Response to Item 3, filed May 28, 2013.

the proposed text changes, Fleming-Mason will be allowed to charge a remote disconnect or reconnect charge of \$25.00 during regular working hours. Fleming-Mason provided cost justification for the charge in response to an information request.<sup>3</sup> When asked about its intention to charge its after-hours fee of \$65.00 for a remote reconnect, Fleming-Mason stated that, as proposed, the tariff would allow it to charge a \$65.00 reconnect fee after-hours regardless of the method of reconnection.<sup>4</sup> However, Fleming-Mason also stated that “[i]t has not yet been ascertained whether a Fleming-Mason Energy employee will need to come in to the office to access the software to reconnect a meter after-hours once it has been remotely disconnected or whether this capability will be available to an employee through remote access from their home computer.”<sup>5</sup> The Commission has concerns about the appropriateness of this charge when a reconnection is made remotely. Therefore we find that Fleming-Mason should be allowed to charge its \$65.00 after-hours fee only if a trip is required by an employee to a customer’s premises or to Fleming-Mason’s office to reconnect a meter after hours.

In its February 27, 2013 filing, on Proposed PSC 3, Second Revised Sheet No. 8, Section 3.a., Fleming-Mason proposed language indicating that a service charge of \$25.00 will be made to collect a delinquent bill after written notice has been sent to the customer stating that if the bill is not paid by a certain date service will be disconnected in accordance with 807 KAR 5:006 Section 9(3)(c).

---

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*, Response to Item 4.

<sup>4</sup> Fleming-Mason Energy’s Response to Commission Staff’s Second Request for Information, Response to Item 2.a.(2), filed June 26, 2013.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, Response to Item 2.a.(1).

Fleming-Mason agreed in response to an information request that the tariff language should be revised to provide that a service charge of \$25.00 will be assessed when a customer's service is disconnected for a delinquent bill, or when a trip is made to the customer's premises to collect a delinquent bill after notice has been sent to the customer stating that if the bill is not paid by a certain date, service will be disconnected.

Having reviewed Fleming-Mason's motion, the record, and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

1. Fleming-Mason's motion to withdraw, without prejudice, Section IX, 3 e. of its tariff filing should be granted.

2. Fleming-Mason should add language to Proposed PSC 3, Second Revised Sheet No. 8, Section 3.b. and d. stating that the after-hours charge of \$65.00 would apply only if a trip is required by a Fleming-Mason employee to a customer's premises or to Fleming-Mason's office to reconnect a meter.

3. Fleming-Mason's Proposed PSC 3, Second Revised Sheet No. 8, Section 3.a. should be modified as described herein.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

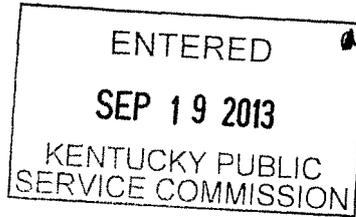
1. Fleming-Mason's motion to withdraw without prejudice, Section IX, 3.e. of its tariff filing is granted.

2. Fleming-Mason's remaining proposed tariff changes, as modified by this Order, are approved for service rendered on and after the date of this Order.

3. Within 20 days of the date of this Order, Fleming-Mason shall file with the Commission, using the Commission's electronic Tariff Filing System, new tariff sheets

setting forth the rates and charges approved herein and reflecting their effective date and that they were authorized by this Order.

By the Commission



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. L. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Executive Director

Honorable Dennis G Howard II  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General Utility & Rate  
1024 Capital Center Drive  
Suite 200  
Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

Chris Perry  
President and CEO  
Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, Inc.  
1449 Elizaville Road  
P. O. Box 328  
Flemingsburg, KY 41041