

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of:**

**APPLICATION OF LOUISVILLE GAS AND )**  
**ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR AN )**  
**ADJUSTMENT OF ITS ELECTRIC AND GAS ) CASE NO. 2014-00372**  
**RATES )**

**PETITION OF LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
**FOR CONFIDENTIAL PROTECTION**

Louisville Gas and Electric Company (“LG&E” or the “Company”) hereby petitions the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13 and KRS 61.878(1) to grant confidential protection for the items described herein, which LG&E seeks to provide to comply with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 16 (7)(c) and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 16 (8)(g).

**Confidential or Proprietary Commercial Information (KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1))**

1. The Kentucky Open Records Act exempts from disclosure commercially sensitive information to the extent that open disclosure would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the entity disclosing the information to the Commission.<sup>1</sup> LG&E is providing certain documents to satisfy the requirements of 807 KAR 5:001, Section 16 (7)(c). One of these is LG&E’s Energy Supply and Analysis 2015 Business Plan (“Energy Supply Plan”) which contains information LG&E requests with this petition that the Commission protect from public disclosure.<sup>2</sup> Page 15 of the Energy Supply Plan shows the estimated time periods for the scheduled outages for certain generating units. The scheduled outage of its generating units is an essential factor in determining LG&E’s generating costs and need for capacity and energy during

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<sup>1</sup> KRS 61.878 (1)(c)(1)

<sup>2</sup> This document is an attachment to Filing Requirement 807 KAR 5:001 Section 16(7)(c) and the specific information at issue is at Item I, Page 22 of 303 of the attachment.

those periods. Thus, disclosing this would necessarily impair LG&E's ability to negotiate with prospective contractors and vendors -- now equipped to manipulate the price of power bid to LG&E to maximize revenues, thereby causing higher prices for LG&E's customers and giving a commercial advantage to LG&E's competitors. Moreover, disclosure of this information could detrimentally impact LG&E's ability to contract for off-system sales during the same time period, thereby impairing LG&E's ability to obtain fair prices for its power supply. The Commission has granted confidential protection to comparable information in the past.<sup>3</sup> The public disclosure of this information will create precisely the kind of competitive harm KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1) intends to prevent. Thus, the Commission should grant confidential protection of this information.

**Public Utility Critical Infrastructure Information (KRS 61.878(1)(m)(1)(e))**

2. The Kentucky Open Records Act exempts from disclosure certain information regarding public security and response needs assessments.<sup>4</sup> LG&E is providing certain documents to satisfy the requirements of 807 KAR 5:001, Section 16 (7)(c). One of these documents is LG&E's Transmission 2015 Business Plan ("Transmission Plan") which contains information LG&E requests with this petition that the Commission protect from public disclosure.<sup>5</sup> Page 6 of LG&E's Transmission Plan shows plans for security at substations, is highly confidential, the disclosure of which could be useful to anyone seeking to threaten or harm public safety by a terrorist act. The Commission recently granted confidential information to similar information.<sup>6</sup> Because this information relates to the security and needs assessment at

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<sup>3</sup> See e.g., *In the Matter of: A Review of the Adequacy of Kentucky's Generation Capacity and Transmission System*, Admin. Case No. 387, Letter from Executive Director DeRouen to Allyson Sturgeon (June. 9, 2008).

<sup>4</sup> KRS 61.878(1)(m)(1)(e).

<sup>5</sup> This document is an attachment to Filing Requirement 807 KAR 5:001 Section 16(7)(c) and the specific information at issue is at Item I, Page 156 of 303 of the attachment.

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., *In the Matter of: 2014 Integrated Resource Plan of Big Rivers Electric Corp.*, Case No. 2014-00166, Order Regarding Request for Confidential Treatment (Aug. 26, 2014).

critical infrastructure, LG&E requests through this petition that the Commission protect this information from public disclosure. The Commission should grant confidential protection of this information.

**Confidential Personal Information (KRS 61.878(1)(a))**

3. The Kentucky Open Records Act exempts from disclosure certain private and personal information.<sup>7</sup> The Kentucky Court of Appeals has stated, “information such as ... wage rate ... [is] generally accepted by society as [a] detail in which an individual has at least some expectation of privacy.”<sup>8</sup> And the Kentucky Supreme Court has characterized “one’s income” as “intimate” information of a private nature.<sup>9</sup> LG&E’s application provides a schedule showing “executive compensation by title” to satisfy the requirement in Section 16 (8)(g).<sup>10</sup> The Commission should therefore give confidential treatment to the information in LG&E’s schedule complying with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 16 (8)(g) because disclosing the contents thereof would invade the privacy rights of the individuals named. Specifically, LG&E seeks confidential protection for the amount of the salary and other compensation not otherwise publicly disclosed. With a very limited exception, LG&E does not otherwise publicly report these individuals’ compensation, making that information personal and private information that should not be in the public realm.<sup>11</sup> The limited exception is a portion of the salary of the top five executives that is allocated to LG&E and is publicly disclosed in the annual FERC Form 1 Report. But that amount, plus the amount reported in the Kentucky Utilities Company FERC Form 1 Report, does

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<sup>7</sup> KRS 61.878(1)(a).

<sup>8</sup> *Zink v. Department of Workers’ Claims, Labor Cabinet*, 902 S.W.2d 825, 828 (Ky. Ct. App. 1994).

<sup>9</sup> *Cape Pub’ns, Inc. v. Univ. of Louisville Found., Inc.*, 260 S.W.3d 818, 822 (Ky. 2008).

<sup>10</sup> Section 16 (8)(g) requires applications seeking a general adjustment of rates supported by a forecasted test period to include: “Analyses of payroll costs including schedules for wages and salaries, employee benefits, payroll taxes, straight time and overtime hours, and executive compensation by title.”

<sup>11</sup> Only the chief executive officer’s complete salary and other compensation is publicly disclosed each year in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and LG&E is not requesting protection from public disclosure of that information.

not equal the total amount of salary for the top five executives. Thus, with the exception of the chief executive officer, the remaining top five executives' total salaries are not publicly disclosed, and their other compensation is not publicly disclosed. And none of salary or other compensation of the remaining 17 officers of LG&E are publicly disclosed. These LG&E employees therefore have a reasonable expectation that their compensation is personal and private information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of their personal privacy in contravention of KRS 61.878(1)(a).

Providing the requested confidential protection for the compensation information of LG&E's employees would fully accord with the purpose of the Act, which is to make government and its actions open to public scrutiny. Concerning the rationale for the Act, the Kentucky Court of Appeals has stated:

[T]he public's 'right to know' under the Open Records Act is premised upon the public's right to expect its agencies properly to execute their statutory functions. In general, inspection of records may reveal whether the public servants are indeed serving the public, and the policy of disclosure provides impetus for an agency steadfastly to pursue the public good. At its most basic level, the purpose of disclosure focuses on the citizens' right to be informed as to what their government is doing.<sup>12</sup>

Citing the Court of Appeals, the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General ("AG") stated in an Open Records Decision ("ORD"), "If disclosure of the requested record would not advance the underlying purpose of the Open Records Act, namely exposing agency action to public scrutiny, then countervailing interests, such as privacy, must prevail."<sup>13</sup>

Moreover, in an order approving LG&E's petition for confidential treatment in Case No. 89-374, the Commission stated that salary information "should be available for customers to

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<sup>12</sup> 902 S.W.2d at 828-29 (Ky. Ct. App. 1994).

<sup>13</sup> *In re: James L. Thomerson/Fayette County Schools*, KY OAG 96-ORD-232 (Nov. 1, 1996) (citing *Zink v. Department of Workers' Claims, Labor Cabinet*, 902 S.W.2d 825 (Ky. Ct. App. 1994)) (emphasis added).

determine whether those salaries are reasonable,” but “the right of each individual employee within a job classification to protect such information as private outweighs the public interest in the information.”<sup>14</sup> In the same order, the Commission concluded, “Thus, the salary paid to each individual within a classification is entitled to protection from public disclosure.”<sup>15</sup> The Commission had reached the same conclusion in two previous orders in the same case.<sup>16</sup>

The compensation information for which LG&E seeks confidential protection in this case is comparable to that provided to the Commission by LG&E in the past. The Commission granted confidential protection of the compensation paid to certain professional employees in a letter from the Executive Director of the Commission dated December 1, 2003, in *In the Matter of: An Investigation Pursuant to KRS 278.260 of the Earnings Sharing Mechanism Tariff of Louisville Gas and Electric Company*, Case No. 2003-00335. The Commission’s Executive Director has also denied such requests in the past.<sup>17</sup>

While the Commission also has previously denied confidential protection to executive officer information, it did so in part “based upon the fact that salaries are included as an expense

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<sup>14</sup> *In the Matter of: Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Order Approving an Agreement and Plan of Exchange and to Carry Out Certain Transactions in Connection Therewith*, Case No. 89-374, Order at 2 (Apr. 30, 1997).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> *See In the Matter of: Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Order Approving an Agreement and Plan of Exchange and to Carry Out Certain Transactions in Connection Therewith*, Case No. 89-374, Order at 2 (Apr. 4, 1996); *In the Matter of: Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Order Approving an Agreement and Plan of Exchange and to Carry Out Certain Transactions in Connection Therewith*, Case No. 89-374, Order at 2 (Apr. 8, 1994). *See also In the Matter of: Application of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a South Central Bell Telephone Company to Modify its Method of Regulation*, Case No. 94-121, Order at 4-5 (July 20, 1995) (“Salaries and wages are matters of private interest which individuals have a right to protect unless the public has an overriding interest in the information. The information furnished, however, only shows the salary range for three labor classifications and does not provide the identity of persons who receive those salaries. Therefore, disclosure of the information would not be an invasion of any employee’s personal privacy, and the information is not entitled to protection.”).

<sup>17</sup> *See, e.g., In the Matter of Application of Kentucky Utilities Company for an Adjustment of Base Rates*, Case No. 2008-00251, Letter from Executive Director Stumbo (Sept. 2, 2008); *In the Matter of Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of Its Electric and Gas Base Rates*, Case No. 2008-00252, Letter from Executive Director Stumbo (Sept. 2, 2008). *See also In the Matter of: An Adjustment of Gas and Electric Rates of Louisville Gas and Electric Company*, Case No. 90-158, Order (Sept. 7, 1990).

in base rate calculations.”<sup>18</sup> As the record demonstrates, however, only a portion of the officers’ salary and other compensation is included in the cost of providing service to customers, and the average salary and other compensation is publicly disclosed on the filing schedule.

Regarding the amount of executive benefits not otherwise publicly disclosed, the Commission has previously denied confidential protection to executive officer information, but did so in part because “salaries of certain officers are subject to public dissemination in regulatory filings.”<sup>19</sup> In 2010, LG&E began disclosing in the public record as part of its FERC Form 1 Reports the salary amounts allocated to LG&E, but not any other compensation information, for its top-five officers only.<sup>20</sup> In 2010, LG&E disclosed in filings with the Securities Exchange Commission details regarding executive benefits of its top-five officers. In subsequent years, LG&E disclosed details regarding only its top chief executive officer and not its next four executive officers. Because LG&E requests confidential protection only for the executive benefits not otherwise publicly disclosed, granting confidential protection to this limited information accords with KRS 61.878(1)(a) and Commission precedent regarding salaries disclosed in regulatory filings.

Regarding the amount of non-executive compensation, LG&E has never publicly disclosed specific compensation information for all other non-executive, lower-ranking officers.

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<sup>18</sup>Case No. 2012-00222, Order Regarding Request for Confidential Treatment at 2 (Sept. 11, 2013). *See also, e.g., In the Matter of: An Adjustment of Gas and Electric Rates of Louisville Gas and Electric Company*, Case No. 90-158, Orders (Aug. 15 and Sept. 7, 1990). In denying LG&E’s motion for reconsideration of the August 15, 1990 order, rejecting LG&E’s request for confidential protection, the Commission held, “Since LG&E seeks to recover through its rate structure the compensation in salaries paid to its executive employees, LG&E customers have a right to know whether the salaries and compensation paid to such employees are reasonable.”

<sup>19</sup> Case No. 2012-00222, Order Regarding Request for Confidential Treatment at 2 (Sept. 11, 2013).

<sup>20</sup> LG&E’s FERC Form 1 for the year ending December 31, 2013, available at <http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/opennat.asp?fileID=13491019>, provided the salary amounts allocated to LG&E for the following officers: Victor A. Staffieri (Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer); S. Bradford Rives (Chief Administrative Officer); Gerald A. Reynolds (General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, and Corporate Secretary); Kent W. Blake (Chief Financial Officer); Paul W. Thompson (Chief Operating Officer); and former officer Chris Herman (Senior Vice President, Energy Delivery). LG&E included its top-six officers in its 2012 FERC Form 1.

Granting confidential protection to this information also accords with internal LG&E policies, which advise employees that their compensation is a private matter and to avoid any disclosures. Thus, these employees have a reasonable expectation that LG&E will maintain the confidentiality of their compensation information; to do otherwise would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy in contravention of KRS 61.878(1)(a). LG&E is providing to the Commission in unredacted form the compensation information of non-executives officers and placing in the public record redacted versions in an average manner that protects the identities and particulate compensation information of individual employees. The public can use the average compensation information to evaluate the Commission's determination of the reasonableness of that compensation. As stated by the Attorney General in an ORD, quoting the Kentucky Court of Appeals, "[T]he policy of disclosure [under the Act] is purposed to subserve the public interest, not to satisfy the public's curiosity..."<sup>21</sup> Though there may be some citizens who are curious to know particular employees' compensation information, mere curiosity is not sufficient to overcome the employees' right to privacy in that information. Moreover, the Commission granted in LG&E's most recent base-rate case confidential protection to non-executive salary and compensation information because the information met the criteria for confidential protection "due to a reasonable expectation of privacy in the information."<sup>22</sup> The details of the compensation paid to these non-executive officers are personal and private information that should not be publicly disclosed.

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<sup>21</sup> *In re: Becky J. Hartell/Department of Personnel*, KY OAG 93-ORD-118 (Oct. 15, 1993) (quoting *Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychologists v. Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Company*, 826 S.W.2d 324, 328 (Ky. 1992)).

<sup>22</sup> Case No. 2012-00222, Order Regarding Request for Confidential Treatment at 2 (Sep. 11, 2013).

4. The information for which LG&E is seeking confidential treatment is not known outside of the Company, and it is not disseminated within LG&E except to those employees with a legitimate business need to know the information.

5. LG&E will disclose the confidential information, pursuant to a confidentiality agreement, to intervenors with a legitimate interest in this information and as required by the Commission.

6. If the Commission disagrees with this request for confidential protection, however, it must hold an evidentiary hearing (a) to protect LG&E's due process rights and (b) to supply with the Commission with a complete record to enable it to reach a decision with regard to this matter.<sup>23</sup>

7. In compliance with 807 KAR 5:001, Sections 8 (3) and 13 (2)(e), LG&E is filing with the Commission one paper copy that identifies by highlighting the information for which confidential protection is sought and one electronic copy with the same information obscured.

8. With the exception of LG&E's aforementioned physical-security information, LG&E requests that the information be kept confidential for at least five years from the date of this filing as that is the amount of time necessary before the confidential information becomes dated to the point that the need for protection no longer exists. As noted above concerning LG&E's physical-security information, LG&E requests that this information be kept confidential indefinitely.

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<sup>23</sup> *Utility Regulatory Commission v. Kentucky Water Service Company, Inc.*, 642 S.W.2d 591, 592-94 (Ky. App. 1982).



**WHEREFORE**, Louisville Gas and Electric Company respectfully requests that the Commission grant confidential protection for the information described herein.

Dated: November 26, 2014

Respectfully submitted,



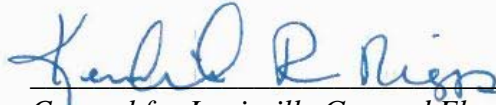
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**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

This is to certify that Louisville Gas and Electric Company's November 26, 2014 electronic filing of the Petition for Confidential Protection is a true and accurate copy of the same document being filed in paper medium; that the electronic filing has been transmitted to the Commission on November 26, 2014; that there are currently no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding; and that an original paper medium of the Petition and an unobscured copy of the material for which confidentiality is sought sealed in an opaque envelope are being hand delivered to the Commission on November 26, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerald R. Nepp", is written over a horizontal line.

*Counsel for Louisville Gas and Electric Company*