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

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In the Matter of:

Electronic Application Of Kentucky Power Company For (1) A General Adjustment Of Its Rates For Electric Service; (2) An Order Approving Its 2017 Environmental Compliance Plan; (3) An Order Approving Its Tariffs And Riders; (4) An Order Approving Accounting Practices To Establish Regulatory Assets Or Liabilities; And (5) An Order Granting All Other Required Approvals And Relief

Case No. 2017-00179

#### KENTUCKY POWER COMPANY'S MOTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Kentucky Power Company ("Kentucky Power" or "Company") moves the Public Service Commission of Kentucky pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2), for an Order granting confidential treatment to documents produced in the Company's September 6, 2017 supplemental responses to Commission Staff Data Request 1-26 ("KPSC 1-26") and Attorney General Data Request ("AG 1-115"). In particular, the Company seeks confidential treatment of tax returns filed by it and by its corporate parent, American Electric Power Company, Inc. ("AEP"), and any returns containing information about entities other than Kentucky Power Company.

On September 5, 2017, Kentucky Power supplemented its responses to KPSC 1-26, AG - 115, and Attorney General Data Request 1-158 by providing federal and state tax returns for 2014 and 2015. Kentucky Power sought confidential treatment for those returns. With its September 6, 2017 supplemental responses to KPSC 1-26 and AG 1-115, the Company is providing federal tax returns for 2016. The Company will seasonably supplement its responses when 2016 state tax returns become available.

The returns are confidential in their entirety. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13, Kentucky Power is filing the returns under seal. Kentucky Power is also filing redacted versions of the affected documents. Kentucky Power will notify the Commission when it determines the information for which confidential treatment is sought is no longer confidential.

## I. MOTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

## A. <u>The Requests and the Statutory Standard</u>.

Kentucky Power does not object to filing the identified information for which it is seeking confidential treatment, but requests that the identified portions of the responses be excluded from the public record and public disclosure.

KRS 61.878(1) excludes from the Open Records Act:

(k) All public records or information the disclosure of which is prohibited by federal law or regulation;

These exceptions apply to the following information for which Kentucky Power is seeking confidential treatment:

# 1. The Company's September 6, 2017 Supplemental Responses to KPSC 1-26 and AG 1-115.

Tax related documents and information merit confidential protection. KRS 61.878(1)(k) exempts from disclosure "[a]ll public records or information the disclosure of which is prohibited by federal law or regulation." Under federal law state officials are prohibited from publicly disclosing any federal income tax return or its contents.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, federal income tax returns and their content fall within the KRS 61.878(1)(k) exemption from public disclosure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 26 U.S.C. § 6103(a)

Kentucky Power seeks confidential treatment of the documents produced in its September 6, 2017 supplemental responses to KPSC 1-26 and AG 1-115 in their entirety for an indefinite period.

#### B. <u>The Identified Information is Generally Recognized as Confidential and</u> <u>Proprietary and Public Disclosure of it Will Result in an Unfair Commercial</u> <u>Advantage for Kentucky Power's Competitors.</u>

The identified information required to be disclosed by Kentucky Power in its supplemental response to KPSC 1-26 and AG 1-115 is highly confidential. Dissemination of the information for which confidential treatment is being requested is restricted by Kentucky Power, its parent, AEP, and its affiliates (including American Electric Power Service Corporation ("AEPSC")). The Company, AEP, and its affiliates (and third party tax services vendors where applicable) take all reasonable measures to prevent its disclosure to the public as well as persons within the Company and third-party tax services vendors who do not have a need for the information. The information is not disclosed to persons outside Kentucky Power, AEP, or its affiliates. Within those organizations, the information is available only upon a confidential need-to-know basis that does not extend beyond those employees with a legitimate business need to know and act upon the identified information.

## C. The Identified Information is Required to be Disclosed to an Agency.

The identified information is by the terms of the Commission's Order required to be disclosed to the Commission. The Commission is a "public agency" as that term is defined in KRS 61.870(1). Any filing should be subject to a confidentiality order and any party requesting such information should be required to enter into an appropriate confidentiality agreement.

WHEREFORE, Kentucky Power Company respectfully requests the Commission to enter an Order:

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1. According confidential status to and withholding from public inspection the

identified information; and

2. Granting Kentucky Power all further relief to which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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