

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

**In The Matter Of:**

**ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF )**  
**LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC )**      **CASE NO. 2018-00295**  
**COMPANY FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ITS )**  
**ELECTRIC AND GAS RATES**

**MOTION TO INTERVENE**  
**OF ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY MINISTRIES, INC.**

1. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(11), Association of Community Ministries, Inc. (“ACM”), by and through counsel, hereby moves for leave to intervene in this proceeding.
2. ACM is an umbrella organization comprised of fifteen independent community ministries that provide utility assistance and other social services to low income individuals throughout Louisville Metro. ACM is a Kentucky nonprofit corporation exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code whose address is P. O. Box 99545, Louisville, Kentucky 40269.
3. The attorneys for ACM authorized to represent it in this proceeding and to take service of all documents are:

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4. 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4 (11) provides that the Commission shall grant a person leave to intervene if the Commission finds that he or she has made a timely motion for intervention and that he or she has a special interest in the case that is not otherwise adequately represented or that his or her intervention is likely to present issues or to develop facts that assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings.

5. ACM's Motion to Intervene is timely and is being filed before the October 29, 2018 deadline for the filing of requests for intervention established by the Commission's Order entered October 11, 2018.

6. ACM has a special interest in this case as an organization dedicated to helping Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E") customers maintain utility service. ACM functions as the Louisville community's safety net by providing an emergency assistance network of ministries, each located in and serving a designated geographic area in Louisville. Each of ACM's member ministries directly assists LG&E ratepayers who have received disconnection notices by making payments to LG&E sufficient to maintain service for thirty days and also by helping to reconnect customers who have been disconnected. ACM's utility assistance funds come from Louisville Metro government, LG&E and private donations from faith communities, businesses and others in the community. The ministries also implement the Community Winterhelp program in Louisville, distributing LG&E ratepayer contributions to assist low income customers during the winter months. Together, ACM's member ministries typically spend nearly one million dollars annually paying client utility bills, but still are not able to assist all

those needing help. In addition to providing emergency assistance, ministries encourage clients to try to lower their bills by conserving energy and taking advantage of energy efficiency programs offered by LG&E as well as Project Warm, a nonprofit agency which provides weatherization services and education to low income families.

7. ACM has a special interest in the rates and service of LG&E. By virtue of its work in directly administering significant amounts of financial assistance payments to LG&E in order to help LG&E customers maintain service, ACM has a special interest in ensuring that the proposed rate increases do not adversely affect its ability to prevent disconnections of service and assist with reconnections. Rate increases lead to larger customer bills and cause assistance funds to be depleted more quickly, which in turn can lead to more disconnections and leave fewer dollars available for reconnections. Increases in the basic service charge have an effect on the ability of ACM clients to reduce their bills through conservation.

8. ACM's special interests as a direct service provider and administrator of key emergency utility assistance programs in the LG&E service territory cannot be adequately represented by the other parties or applicants for intervention in this case. None of the other parties, including the Office of the Attorney General, or applicants for intervention are direct service providers whose work in helping customers maintain or regain service will be directly affected by the amount and design of residential rate increases. Nor do any of the other parties or applicants have ACM's knowledge and direct experience of working with LG&E customers facing disconnection of service with which to identify issues for consideration by the Commission. ACM is the only entity

who has petitioned for intervention who works directly with low income LG&E customers to help them maintain utility service.

9. Further, the interest of ACM in preventing disconnections of low income customers differs from the interest of the Attorney General in representing consumers in general, some of whom are better able to absorb rate increases due to higher income levels and who do not face the risk of losing service as ACM clients do.

10. ACM's intervention will present issues and facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering this matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings. Among the determinations that the Commission will make in this case are LG&E's revenue requirement, how any increases should be allocated among the classes and between fixed and variable charges, and ultimately what the record indicates are fair, just and reasonable rates. In reaching its decision, the Commission must balance the interests of LG&E and diverse customer classes. ACM seeks to assist the Commission by providing information on the interests of low income residential ratepayers who face both the risk and the reality of disconnection of service. These ratepayers include customers on fixed incomes, the unemployed, working people living paycheck to paycheck and those who experience unexpectedly high medical or utility bills. These customers have a different interest in ensuring that rates remain affordable than do residential customers of higher incomes for whom rate increases do not affect their ability to afford service. Moreover, according to data developed by ACM in the last LG&E rate case, there are significant numbers of low income customers in these circumstances. In 2016, 54,438

LG&E customers received third party assistance totaling \$6,454,926.<sup>1</sup> In the year ending June 30, 2016, 62,619 LG&E customers were disconnected due to nonpayment of bills.<sup>2</sup> If granted permission to intervene in this case, ACM would seek to develop the record about the needs of low income ratepayers, such as current levels of disconnections, reconnections and levels of third party assistance for the Commission's information and consideration as it balances the interests of the various constituencies affected by the proposed rate increases. ACM would also seek to develop the record relating to proposed changes in rate design. Upon further review of the proceedings ACM may identify other relevant issues to bring to the Commission's attention.

11. If granted permission to intervene, ACM plans to take an active role in the case through data requests, filing of testimony, and participation in any settlement conferences or hearings that may be scheduled.

12. ACM has participated in a number of other matters before the Commission, including several base rate cases.<sup>3</sup> Consistent with its participation in past proceedings,

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<sup>1</sup> *Electronic Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of its Electric and Gas Rates and for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity*, Case No. 2016-00371, LG&E Response to First Request for Information of ACM, No. 11.

<sup>2</sup> *Electronic Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of its Electric and Gas Rates and for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity*, Case No. 2016-00371, Testimony of Marlon Cummings at 10-11.

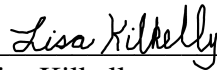
<sup>3</sup> *Joint Application of Louisville Gas & Electric Co., Association of Community Ministries, Inc., People Organized and Working for Energy Reform and Kentucky Association for Community Action, Inc. for the Establishment of a Home Energy Assistance Program*, Case No. 2007-00337; *Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company, Inc. for an Adjustment of its Electric and Gas Base Rates*, Case No. 2008-00252; *Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of Electric and Gas Base Rates*, Case No. 2009-00549; *An Investigation of Natural Gas Retail Competition Programs*, Case No. 2010-00146; *Joint Application of PPL Corporation, E.On Ag, E.On Us Investments Corp., E.On U.S. LLC, Louisville Gas and Electric Company, and Kentucky Utilities Company for Approval of an Acquisition of Ownership and Control of Utilities*, Case No. 2010-00204; *Joint Application of Louisville Gas & Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company for Review, Modification, and Continuation of Existing, and Addition of New, Demand-Side Management and Energy-Efficiency Programs*, Case No. 2011-00134; *Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for Adjustment of its Electric and Gas Rates, A Certificate Of Convenience and Necessity, Approval of Gas Service Lines and Risers, and a Gas Line Surcharge*, Case No. 2012-00222; *Joint Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company For Review, Modification, and Continuation of Existing, and Addition of New, Demand-Side Management and Energy-*

ACM will participate in this case efficiently and without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings.

13. ACM has a special interest that is not otherwise adequately represented by parties to this proceeding. If allowed to intervene, ACM will present issues and develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering this matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings.

WHEREFORE, ACM requests that it be granted leave to intervene as a full party in this proceeding, with all rights attendant to full party status.

Respectfully submitted,



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Counsel for ACM

Dated: October 26, 2018

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*Efficiency Programs, Case No. 2014-00003; Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of its Electric and Gas Rates, Case No. 2014-00372; and Electronic Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of its Electric and Gas Rates and for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity, Case No. 2016-00371; Electronic Joint Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Full Deployment of Advanced Metering Systems, Case No. 2018-00005.*