

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

**In the Matter of:**

<b>THE ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF OWEN )</b>	
<b>ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR PASS- )</b>	
<b>THROUGH OF EAST KENTUCKY POWER )</b>	<b>Case No. 2021-00115</b>
<b>COOPERATIVE, INC.'S WHOLESALE RATE )</b>	
<b>ADJUSTMENT )</b>	

**RESPONSES TO COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**  
**TO OWEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**

**DATED MAY 12, 2021**

**OWEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**

**PSC CASE NO. 2021-00115**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REQUEST DATED 5/12/21**

Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“Owen Electric”) hereby submits responses to the First Request for Information of the Public Service Commission (“PSC”) in this case dated May 12, 2021. Each response with its associated supportive reference materials is individually bookmarked.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
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COOPERATIVE, INC.'S WHOLESALE RATE )  
ADJUSTMENT )

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF KENTUCKY )

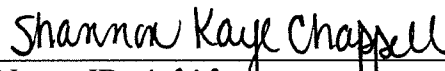
COUNTY OF OWEN )

Comes now Michael L. Cobb, being first duly sworn, and states that he has supervised the preparation of the responses of Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Owen Electric") to the Public Service Commission Staff's First Request for Information in the above-referenced case dated May 12, 2021, and that the matters and things set forth therein are true and accurate to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry.



Michael L. Cobb

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.



Notary ID: 621902

Expires: April 25, 2023

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

**In the Matter of:**

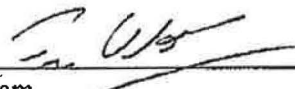
**THE ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF OWEN )  
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THROUGH OF EAST KENTUCKY POWER ) Case No. 2021-00115  
COOPERATIVE, INC.'S WHOLESALE RATE )  
ADJUSTMENT )**

**CERTIFICATE**

**STATE OF KENTUCKY )**


**COUNTY OF JEFFERSON )**

Comes now John Wolfram, being first duly sworn, and states that he has supervised the preparation of the responses of Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Owen Electric") to the Public Service Commission Staff's First Request for Information in the above-referenced case dated May 12, 2021, and that the matters and things set forth therein are true and accurate to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Wolfram

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary ID: KYNP10362  
Expires: 7/23/24

**OWEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**

**PSC CASE NO. 2021-00115**

**RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST**

**COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DATED 5/12/21**

**REQUEST 1**

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Michael L. Cobb

**Request 1.** Refer to the Application of Case No. 2021-000103,<sup>1</sup> the Direct Testimony of Isaac S. Scott, page 38, line 17. Mr. Scott states that there has not been any concerns raised by the owner-members concerning East Kentucky Power Cooperative's (EKPC) Demand Side Management (DSM) cost recovery approach.

- a. Confirm that Owen Electric has not raised any concerns to date to EKPC.
- b. List any concerns that Owen Electric has not expressed to EKPC but may have regarding EKPC's DSM cost recovery approach.

**Response 1.**

- a. Owen Electric confirms that no issues or concerns have been raised to East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) regarding EKPC's Demand Side Management (DSM) cost recovery approach.

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 2021-00103, *Electronic Application of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. for a General Adjustment of Rates, Approval of Depreciation Study, Amortization of Certain Regulatory Assets, and Other General Relief* (filed Apr. 6, 2021).

- b. Owen Electric has no unexpressed concerns to relay to EKPC regarding their DSM cost recovery approach.

OWEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

PSC CASE NO. 2021-00115

RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DATED 5/12/21

REQUEST 2

RESPONSIBLE PARTY: John Wolfram

**Request 2.** Refer to the Application, Exhibit 6, the Direct Testimony of John Wolfram (Wolfram Testimony), page 5, lines 1–4. Explain what “self-evidently unreasonable” implies.

**Response 2.** “Self-evidently unreasonable” means that a result from the application of the particular method does not make sense on its face. An example would be the case where the wholesale demand charge is increasing, but applying the *Kenergy* method results in a retail demand charge that is decreasing. It is not reasonable to pass through a wholesale increase in demand charges in such a way that the retail demand charge decreases; such a scenario demonstrates that the pass-through method is more complex than it first appears, and/or that the method has unintended consequences.

This kind of calculation anomaly does not often occur for two-part rates for which the proportions of cost recovery do not vary much over time, but it does frequently occur for three-part rates or any other rate with multiple blocks where the billing determinants in the various blocks do not maintain the same proportions over time. A large power rate with base demand and excess demand blocks may have no excess demand in the last rate order but have significant excess demand in the current test year, or vice versa. The requirement to maintain revenue proportionality

when the relative proportions of block billing determinants vary over time can create resulting per-unit charges that are unreasonable at face value. This is what is meant by “self-evidently unreasonable.”



**OWEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**

**PSC CASE NO. 2021-00115**

**RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST**

**COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DATED 5/12/21**

**REQUEST 3**

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** John Wolfram

**Request 3.** Refer to the Wolfram Testimony, page 5, lines 15–17, and page 6, lines 1-2.

- a. Explain why Owen Electric did not seek a deviation from the proportional flow through ratemaking guidelines ordered in Case No. 2020-00095.
- b. Explain the specific Owen Electric circumstances that would necessitate such a deviation.
- c. Provide a list of active members, or billing determinants, for the last Commission approved rate Order and a list of 2019 active members, or billing determinants, by rate class in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, columns, and rows unprotected and fully accessible.

**Response 3.**

a. The Applicant did not believe that a formal deviation request was necessary for several reasons. First, while I am not an attorney, it is my understanding that deviations are typically only sought for requested departures from Commission regulations, not Commission Orders. Second, while the *Kenergy* Order was effective from the date it was issued, it was not yet final and non-

appealable at the time the pass-through case was filed. Third, and most importantly, the Applicant sought to transparently and proactively address the effect of the *Kenergy* Order in my pre-filed testimony. As I stated in testimony, the methodology used in the *Kenergy* Order created several anomalous results for most of EKPC's members and, under the Hope Doctrine (*Fed. Power Comm'n v. Hope Natural Gas Co.*, 320 U.S. 591, 602 (1944)) to which the Commission has long ascribed, it is the outcome reached that is more important than the methodology employed in achieving the outcome. I sought to explain why the methodology in the *Kenergy* Order did not fit the particular circumstances of most Owner-Members and I am providing the materials upon which I relied in my analysis as part of the other responses to Commission Staff's First Requests for Information. Thus, for both technical and substantive reasons, a request for a deviation did not appear to be required. Should the Commission believe that a more formal request to deviate from the *Kenergy* Order method is required, the Applicant will be happy to supplement the record with a motion or brief as preferred – presumably following the conclusion of discovery or any hearing to be held in this matter.

- b. Please see the attachment provided via electronic upload in response to Item 4.
- c. Please see the attachment provided via electronic upload.

**OWEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**

**PSC CASE NO. 2021-00115**

**RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST**

**COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DATED 5/12/21**

**REQUEST 4**

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** John Wolfram

**Request 4.** Refer to the Wolfram Testimony, page 6, lines 3–21. Provide the analysis based upon the allocation method described in the 2020-00095 final Order in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, columns, and rows unprotected and fully accessible.

**Response 4.** Please see the attachment provided via electronic upload.

**OWEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**

**PSC CASE NO. 2021-00115**

**RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUEST**

**COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DATED 5/12/21**

**REQUEST 5**

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** John Wolfram

**Request 5.** Refer to the Application, Exhibit 3. Provide in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, columns, and rows unprotected and fully accessible.

**Response 5.** Please see the attachment provided via electronic upload.