

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Duke Energy Kentucky,)
Inc.'s Integrated Resource Plan) Case No. 2021-00245
)

**PETITION OF DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY, INC. FOR CONFIDENTIAL
TREATMENT OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ITS RESPONSES TO THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SECOND SET OF DATA REQUESTS**

Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. (Duke Energy Kentucky or Company), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13, respectfully requests the Commission to classify and protect certain information provided by Duke Energy Kentucky in its Responses to the Attorney General (AG)'s Second Request for Information issued on November 18, 2021. The information that Duke Energy Kentucky seeks confidential treatment on generally includes: (1) information on cost estimates related to solar projects; and (2) information related to operations and management (O&M) costs and decommissioning costs. The information which the Company is requesting to remain confidential includes items 10, 13, and 14 of AG's Second Request for Information.

The public disclosure of the information described included Duke Energy Kentucky's forecasted costs and estimates, which if disclosed, would place Duke Energy Kentucky at a commercial disadvantage as it manages its business and negotiates contracts with various suppliers and vendors, and could potentially harm Duke Energy Kentucky's competitive position in the marketplace, to the detriment of Duke Energy Kentucky and its customers.

In support of this Petition, Duke Energy Kentucky states:

1. The Kentucky Open Records Act exempts from disclosure certain commercial information. KRS 61.878 (1)(c). To qualify for this exemption and, therefore, maintain the confidentiality of the information, a party must establish that disclosure of the commercial information would permit an unfair advantage to competitors of that party. Public disclosure of the information identified herein would, in fact, prompt such a result for the reasons set forth below.

2. The information regarding forecasted power production costs that Duke Energy Kentucky wishes to protect from public disclosure - including projected costs of fuel and various compliance and other O&M expenses, capital costs, power market prices, and projected capacity cost - as identified in the responses. This information was developed internally by Duke Energy Kentucky personnel, is not on file with any public agency, and is not available from any commercial or other source outside Duke Energy Kentucky. The aforementioned information is distributed within Duke Energy Kentucky only to those employees who must have access for business reasons. If publicly disclosed, this information setting forth Duke Energy Kentucky's costs of operation, strategies for managing its operations in the wholesale power markets, including projected prices, expected need for fuel and allowances and projected capacity could give competitors an advantage in bidding for and securing new resources. Similarly, disclosure would afford an undue advantage to Duke Energy Kentucky's vendors and suppliers as they would enjoy an obvious advantage in any contractual negotiations to the extent they could calculate Duke Energy Kentucky's requirements, how it values certain resources, and what Duke Energy Kentucky anticipates those requirements to cost. Finally, public disclosure of this information, particularly as it

relates to supply-side alternatives, would reveal the business model Duke Energy Kentucky uses - the procedure it follows and the factors and inputs it considers - in evaluating the economic viability of various generation related projects. Public disclosure would give Duke Energy Kentucky's contractors, vendors and competitor's access to Duke Energy Kentucky's cost and operational parameters, as well as insight into its contracting practices. Such access would impair Duke Energy Kentucky's ability to negotiate with prospective contractors and vendors and could harm Duke Energy Kentucky's competitive position in the power market, ultimately affecting the costs to serve customers.

3. The information contained in its responses include various forecasts depicting the Company's view of power prices, facility operations, and fuel consumption respectfully. This information is considered proprietary to Duke Energy Kentucky and depicts its views of operations in the future. The Company would be placed at a competitive disadvantage if such information is released publicly as it would provide the competitors and potential counterparties and vendors for Duke Energy Kentucky with a competitive advantage that would prevent the Company from having the ability to manage its costs. It would also allow such counterparties and/or competitors to make decisions regarding pricing they otherwise would not have done, thereby making Duke Energy Kentucky and, in turn, its customers pay more than they otherwise would absent such information.

4. Duke Energy Kentucky does not object to limited disclosure of the confidential information described herein, pursuant to an acceptable protective agreement, with the Attorney General or other intervenors with a legitimate interest in reviewing the same for the purpose of participating in this case.

5. This information was, and remains, integral to Duke Energy Kentucky's effective execution of business decisions. And such information is generally regarded as confidential or proprietary. Indeed, as the Kentucky Supreme Court has found, "information concerning the inner workings of a corporation is 'generally accepted as confidential or proprietary.'" *Hoy v. Kentucky Industrial Revitalization Authority*, Ky., 904 S.W.2d 766, 768 (Ky. 1995).

6. In accordance with the provisions of 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(3), the Company is filing one copy of the Confidential Information separately under seal, and eleven copies without the confidential information included.

7. Duke Energy Kentucky respectfully requests that the Confidential Information be withheld from public disclosure for a period of ten years. This will assure that the Confidential Information – if disclosed after that time – will no longer be commercially sensitive so as to likely impair the interests of the Company or its customers if publicly disclosed.

8. To the extent the Confidential information becomes generally available to the public, whether through filings required by other agencies or otherwise, Duke Energy Kentucky will notify the Commission and have its confidential status removed pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13(10)(a).

WHEREFORE, Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. respectfully requests the Commission classify and protect as confidential the specific information described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY, INC.

/s/Rocco D'Ascenzo

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the foregoing electronic filing is a true and accurate copy of the document being filed in paper medium; that the electronic filing was transmitted to the Commission on December 17, 2021; and, that there are currently no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding.

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