

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

**In the Matter of:**

**ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF THE )**  
**PROPOSED POLE ATTACHMENT TARIFFS OF )**  
**INVESTOR OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES )** **CASE NO. 2022-00105**

**RESPONSE OF**  
**LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY AND**  
**KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY**  
**TO**  
**KENTUCKY BROADBAND AND CABLE ASSOCIATION'S SUPPLEMENTAL**  
**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**  
**DATED MAY 19, 2022**

**FILED: JUNE 2, 2022**



**LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY AND  
KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY**

**Response to Kentucky Broadband and Cable Association's Supplemental Request  
for Information  
Dated May 19, 2022**

**Case No. 2022-00105**

**Question No. 1**

**Responding Witness: Jason P. Jones**

Q-1. Explain how a new attacher would determine whether a pole was “[d]esignated for replacement within two (2) years of the date of its actual replacement for any reason unrelated to a new attacher’s request for attachment,” as stated in 807 KAR 5:015 Section 1(10)(b), if the pole was not visibly marked with a colored tag or other indication of replacement.

A-1. To the extent applicable, the Companies incorporate by reference their Response to Data Request 1-3 of KBCA’s First Request for Information. *See* Companies’ Response to KBCA’s First Request for Information, Item 3. For the purposes of determining whether a pole is a “red-tagged pole” within the meaning of 807 KAR 5:015, the Companies intend to identify those poles designated for replacement within the next two years while reviewing attachment applications. Upon receiving the attachment application, the Companies intend to cross-reference the poles included in the application with its list of poles designated for replacement within the next two years. When a pole that is so designated appears in an attachment application, the Companies intend to include its replacement in the scope of necessary make-ready and identify it as a “red-tagged pole” in the relevant make-ready notices. Through this process, the new attacher will receive notice of any poles within its application that were previously designated as “red-tagged” poles but not actually tagged at the time of such designation.

The Companies will continue their practices of performing the replacement at the Companies’ expense and excluding the replacement cost from any make-ready estimates. The Companies will also continue their practices of inviting attachment customers to notify the Companies of any poles potentially in need of replacement so that the poles can be inspected and potentially replaced in a timely manner. A new attacher would therefore determine that a pole was a “red-tagged pole” by reviewing the Companies’ approved make-ready solution for each of its applications. Moreover, the Commission’s new pole attachment regulation provides new attachers with the right to be present for any field inspection performed by the Companies as part of a make-ready survey. *See* 807 KAR 5:015, Section 4(2)(b)2. Therefore, if the Companies determine that a pole

included within a new attacher's application is deficient and in need of replacement, the new attacher would learn in real time during the field inspection that the pole has been deemed "red-tagged."

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**Question No. 2**

**Responding Witness: Jason P. Jones**

- Q-2. State whether You will visibly mark "Red-tagged poles," as that term is defined in 807 KAR 5:015, with colored tags or in some other manner. If You will mark the poles with colored tags, state which colors You will use, and what those colors signify.
- A-2. The Companies intend to continue their practices of marking poles with colored tags consistent with the inspection programs they operate. See the Companies' Response to Commission Staff's First Request for Information, Item 7, and the Companies' Response to KBCA's First Request for Information, Item 3.

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**Question No. 3**

**Responding Witness: Jason P. Jones**

- Q-3. Identify the average amount of time You spend per pole on a pre-construction survey.
- A-3. The Companies spend approximately 1.65 hours (99 minutes) per pole reviewing pole attachment applications.

**LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY AND  
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**Response to Kentucky Broadband and Cable Association's Supplemental Request  
for Information  
Dated April 21, 2022**

**Case No. 2022-00105**

**Question No. 4**

**Responding Witness: Jason P. Jones**

- Q-4. Provide any data related to Your contention that during periods of “high deployment,” “[b]y necessity, Attachment Customers often resort to utilizing lower-quality communications contractors, which leads to a higher incidence of defective installations.” *See* Response to KBCA RFI 1-7.
- A-4. In the Companies’ experience, larger attachment projects result in larger numbers of installation defects—installations that are not performed according to the approved design or that are performed in an unsafe manner—relative to “regular”-sized projects. 132 of the 168 violations noted in the Companies’ Response to KBCA’s First Request for Information, Item 1, occurred during large attachment projects.

The Companies have accommodated four large attachment projects in recent years, spanning multiple counties in the service territory. In each project the Companies have identified similar concerns relating to unsafe and deficient installations—making attachments at a point on the pole higher than called for in a construction print, not performing necessary make-ready prior to the installation, and over-tensioning the messenger wire, for example. At some point in each of these projects, the Companies have been compelled to suspend the Attachment Customer’s construction in order to meet with the Attachment Customer and their contractors and address those concerns.

Anecdotally, Company personnel have noted that the construction crews associated with most of the defects are contractors that the Company personnel are not used to seeing on the Companies’ system. In an egregious example shown below, one such contractor was directed to stop work because he was using the neutral wire to support his cable roller as he attached fiber to a messenger wire. The individual was unidentified and was working in an unmarked rental truck.



More recently, the Companies have discovered violations of this type in an ongoing fiber deployment on the outskirts of Louisville. Numerous attachments were installed too close to Company electric facilities and without necessary communications make-ready being performed. These attachments were on applications associated with a Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) project, a large attachment project impacting poles across the state. However, these are not violations that the Companies typically see with this particular attachment customer's "regular"-scale projects, and suggest some difference in practice between those projects and the RDOF build.