COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

Electronic Tariff Filing Of Kentucky Power Company For Approval Of A Special Contract Under Its Economic Development Rider And Demand Response Service Tariffs With Cyber Innovation Group, LLC

Case No. 2022-00424

Kentucky Power Company's Motion For Confidential Treatment

Kentucky Power Company ("Kentucky Power" or the "Company") moves the Public

Service Commission of Kentucky pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2), for an Order

granting confidential treatment to the following:

a) the identified portions of KPCO_R_KPSC_1_1_Attachment1 (Attachment 1 to KPSC 1-1);

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b) the entirety of KPCO_R_AG_1_9_Attachment1 (Attachment 1 to AG 1-9);

c) the identified portions of KPCO_R_AG_1_10_Attachment1 (Attachment 1 to AG 1-10);

d) the identified portions of KPCO_R_AG_1_19_Attachment1 (Attachment 1 to AG 1-19); and

e) the identified portions of KPCO_R_AG_1_20_Attachment1 (Attachment 1 to AG 1-20).

Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13, Kentucky Power is filing under seal those

portions of the attachments containing confidential information with the confidential portions highlighted in yellow or, where an entire document is confidential, is filing the entire document under seal. Kentucky Power is also filing public versions of the relevant documents. Kentucky Power will notify the Commission in the future if the Company determines the information for which confidential treatment is sought is no longer confidential prior to the end of the period for which confidential treatment is requested herein.

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 it 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:

(c) (1) Upon and after July 15, 1992, records confidentially disclosed to an agency or required to be disclosed to it, generally recognized as confidential or proprietary, which if openly disclosed would permit an unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the entity that disclosed the records.

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

1. Attachment 1 to KPSC 1-1 and Attachment 1 to AG 1-9.

Attachment 1 to KPSC 1-1 contains the supporting calculations to Errata Attachment 3 to the Company's initial contract filing (marginal cost study), which include the estimated expected revenues from Cyber Innovation Group, LLC ("Cyber Innovation") over the contract term. Attachment 1 to AG 1-9 is comprised of Cyber Innovation's billing history at the Rockhouse Facility, which includes Cyber Innovation's meter number, total monthly electric bill amounts, average electric bill amount, average cost per kWh, and usage and demand history.

Cyber Innovation operates in a highly competitive industry in which cost information is highly protected for competitive advantage. The cryptocurrency mining and data services industry is driven by access to power with the cost of electric power accounting for over 90 percent of the operational costs of providing such services.¹ Consequently, Cyber Innovation seeks to maintain confidentiality regarding the cost of power it obtains from Kentucky Power under the proposed contract. Similar to other industrial customers (steel, aluminum, pulp and paper), Cyber Innovation needs to maintain confidentiality regarding the cost of the commodities and services it competes to sell. Cyber Innovation will suffer injury by any public release of this information because its competitors will gain access to the most sensitive information regarding its cost of operations. Publication of this confidential information also would cause Kentucky Power competitive harm because such publication may chill or impede the Company's ability to enter into contracts for service with prospective customers if customers know that information regarding their cost to operate could be made public.

The Company requests that the identified information in Attachment 1 to KPSC 1-1 and the entirety of Attachment 1 to AG 1-9 be kept confidential for the entire term of the Special Contract, including any extensions of the contract term. After such time there will no longer be any competitive advantage to be gained from the information.

2. Attachment 1 to AG 1-10.

Attachment 1 to AG 1-10 contains a list of Cyber Innovation's full-time employee positions and their associated salaries. If this information were to be published publicly, Cyber Innovation and the Company would suffer competitive harm. Publishing Cyber Innovation's salary and compensation information would expose Cyber Innovation's operational and staffing trade secrets, which would weaken it against parties competing for labor and would put Cyber Innovation in a weaker position to negotiate pay in the region. Moreover, this is confidential information regarding future customer operations that Kentucky Power obtains through

¹ See <u>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-markets-bitcoin-mining-idUSKCN0ZO2CW</u> (last accessed December 28, 2022).

communication with the customer. If this information were disclosed, Kentucky Power's customers would be reluctant to share such information in the future, which would harm Kentucky Power's ability to attract new business.

The Company requests that the identified information in Attachment 1 to KPSC 1-1 be kept confidential for the entire term of the Special Contract, including any extensions of the contract term. After such time there will no longer be any competitive advantage to be gained from the information.

3. Attachment 1 to AG 1-19 and Attachment 1 to AG 1-20.

Attachment 1 to AG 1-19 and Attachment 1 to AG 1-20 contain competitive market information related to customer loads and company demand. This information can be used to determine market pricing, as competitors of Kentucky Power can use this information to alter their prices based on load data.

Public disclosure of this information could adversely affect Kentucky Power and its customers by providing data that could provide a competitive advantage to Kentucky Power's direct competitors thereby affecting Kentucky Power's ability to minimize costs for its rate paying customers.

The confidential information identified in 2. Attachment 1 to AG 1-19 and Attachment 1 to AG 1-20 should be kept confidential for a period of five years. After such time there will no longer be any competitive advantage to be gained from the information.

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

The identified information contained in the attachments detailed herein is highly confidential and competitively sensitive. Dissemination of the information for which confidential treatment is being requested is restricted by Kentucky Power, its parent, AEP, and its affiliates

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(including American Electric Power Service Corporation ("AEPSC") and the affected operating company affiliates). The Company, AEP, and its affiliates take all reasonable measures to prevent its disclosure to the public as well as persons within the Company 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. <u>The Identified Information is Required to be Disclosed to an Agency</u>.

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:

1. According confidential status to and withholding from public inspection the identified information in Attachment 1 to KPSC 1-1 and the entirety of Attachment 1 to AG 1-9 for the entire term of the Special Contract, including any extensions of the contract term;

2. According confidential status to and withholding from public inspection the identified information in Attachment 1 to AG 1-10 for the entire term of the Special Contract, including any extensions of the contract term

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

identified information in Attachment 1 to AG 1-19 and Attachment 1 to AG 1-20 for a period of five years; and

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

Respectfully submitted,

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