COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ITS ELECTRIC RATES AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN REGULATORY AND ACCOUNTING TREATMENTS

)) CASE NO. 2025-00113

)

JOINT MOTION OF KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH, KENTUCKY SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY, AND MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FOR FULL INTERVENTION AS JOINT INTERVENORS

Come now Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Solar Energy Society, and Mountain Association (collectively "Joint Movants"), by and through counsel, and move for leave to participate as full Joint Intervenors in the above-captioned proceeding. In support of this Joint Motion, Movants state as follows:

Introduction

1. Each of the Joint Movants has a distinct but overlapping interest in, and expertise relating to the instant case, and a history of assisting in developing facts before the Public Service Commission ("the Commission" or "PSC").

2. Joint Movants' interests in the Company's *Electronic Application for an Adjustment of its Electric Rates and Approval of Certain Regulatory and Accounting Treatments* are distinct and different than those of the existing parties, including the Office of the Attorney General, and Joint Movants' participation is "likely to present issues and develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings." As discussed in detail below, Joint Movants have participated as Joint Intervenors in several cases before this Commission, including the Company's previous base rate case, case no. 2020-00349.1

As shown through their prior participation, Joint Movants bring value to the discussions

and deliberations of the Commission and intend to provide expert testimony and

perspectives that would otherwise not be presented for the Commission's consideration

in determining wherein lies the public's interest and what is fair, just, and reasonable.

Legal Standard

3. Intervention in formal proceedings before the Kentucky Public Service

Commission ("Commission") is within the sound discretion of the Commission and is

governed by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(11), which provides in relevant part that:

A person who wishes to become a party to a case before the Commission may, by timely motion, request leave to intervene. [] The motion shall include the movant's full name, mailing address, and electronic mail address and shall state his or her interest in the case and how intervention is likely to present issues or develop facts that will assist the commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings.²

4. 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(11)(b) provides that the Commission shall grant

a person leave to intervene if the Commission finds that they have made a timely

motion for intervention and have a special interest in the case that is not otherwise

adequately represented or that their 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.

Joint Movants

¹ Electronic Application of Kentucky Utilities Company for an Adjustment of Its Electric Rates, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Deploy Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Approval of Certain Regulatory and Accounting Treatments, and Establishment of a One-Year Surcredit, Case No. 2024-00349 ("2020 Rate Case").

² 807 KAR 5:001 §4(11)(a)(1).

5. Kentuckians for the Commonwealth ("KFTC") is a non-profit corporation in good standing incorporated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky with its principal office located at 131 North Mill Street, London, Kentucky 40743. KFTC pays electric rates to KU at this principal office.

6. KFTC is a forty-one-year-old, multi-issue grassroots organization of Kentuckians inspired by a vision to work for a brighter future for all people, no matter our color, where we come from, or how much money we have. Together, KFTC members organize for a fair economy, a healthy environment, new safe energy, and an honest democracy. KFTC has twelve chapters across the state—including chapters in the Big Sandy region, Central Kentucky, Kentucky River region, Western Kentucky, Rowan County, and Shelby County many of whose members are KU ratepayers. Altogether KFTC has more than 12,000 members in nearly all of Kentucky's 120 counties.

7. As an organization, KFTC has been involved with issues affecting low-income residential ratepayers for over thirty years and has significant experience in educating the public and supporting both public comments and expert testimony in rate cases and has gained a deep understanding of the needs of residential customers across the state, for energy efficiency, demand side management, and a healthy energy system, and the consequences for communities of the transition to clean energy. As a member-based organization with deep roots in the region and over 6,000 members who take service in the LG&E or KU service territory, KFTC is uniquely positioned to be a voice for the needs and interests of LG&E-KU residential ratepayers, particularly low-income ratepayers, who are also KFTC members. 8. KFTC's internal Chapter Working Groups include an energy justice working group in Central Kentucky that has a focus on ensuring a just energy transition that takes into account the needs of both low-income ratepayers, as well as the effects of the siting and operations of energy producing facilities. KFTC members who are ratepayers across the state additionally have a vested interest in the outcome of the case.

9. Kentucky Solar Energy Society ("KYSES") is a non-profit corporation in good standing, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with its principal office at 215 Oxford Place Louisville 40207. The mission of KYSES is to promote the use of renewable energy resources, energy efficiency, and conservation in Kentucky through education, advocacy, networking, and demonstration of practical applications. KYSES is comprised of members who include residential solar energy customers taking service from LG&E and KU in its service territory; solar energy enthusiasts (including potential future solar customers); professionals working in the clean energy field in business, nongovernmental organizations, and academia; and advocates for a transition to a clean energy economy.

10. As stated by Company witness Eileen Saunders in the Company's previous rate case, "[m]any customers also are interested in solar options, electric vehicles, and energy storage."³ In the current application the Companies are proposing a *significant* decrease in the rate offered to customers under Rider NMS-2 of almost 50%, completely eliminating avoided cost components for every cost type except one (avoided energy).

³ 2020 Rate Case, Direct Testimony of Eileen Saunders, Vice President - Customer Services Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company at 28 lines 1-2 (Nov. 25, 2020).

11. KYSES has participated in both the previous rate case that set the cost components and levels, as well as earlier precedential cases related to net metering calculations and cost components,⁴ and offering expert testimony in the area related to the matter.⁵ In addition, KYSES Board Member Andrew McDonald has significant experience in the solar industry, and has provided expert testimony on the matters at issue and related matters several times.⁶

12. KYSES clearly has a vested interest in and ability to present issues or to develop facts that assist the Commission in fully considering the matter.

13. Mountain Association is a non-profit corporation in good standing

incorporated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with an office at 433 Chestnut Street,

Berea, Kentucky, 40403.

14. Mountain Association works with people in Eastern Kentucky and Central

Appalachia to create economic opportunity, strengthen democracy, and support the

sustainable use of natural resources. MA's energy programs work to strengthen the

region's residents, small businesses, local governments, communities, and nonprofits

⁴ 2020 Rate Case; Electronic Application of Kentucky Power Company for (1) a General Adjustment of Its Rates for Electric Service; (2) Approval of Tariffs and Riders; (3) Approval of Accounting Practices to Establish Regulatory Assets and Liabilities; (4) Approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity; And (5) All Other Required Approvals and Relief, Case No. 2020-00174 ("2020 KPCo Rate Case").

⁵ See, *e.g.*, 2020 Rate Case, Direct Testimony of Karl R. Rábago on Behalf of Joint Intervenors (Mar. 05, 2021); 2020 Rate Case, Direct Testimony of James Owen on Behalf of Joint Intervenors (Mar. 05, 2021); 2020 Rate Case, Supplemental Rebuttal Testimony of James Owen on Behalf of Joint Intervenors (Aug. 05, 2021); 2020 Rate Case, Supplemental Rebuttal Testimony of Karl R. Rábago on Behalf of Joint Intervenors (Aug. 05, 2021); 2020 Rate Case, Supplemental Rebuttal Testimony of Karl R. Rábago on Behalf of Joint Intervenors (Aug. 05, 2021); Joint Intervenors also offered testimony and supplemental rebuttal testimony from several witnesses on the issue in the 2020 KPCo Rate Case.

⁶ See, e.g., KPCo Rate Case, Direct Testimony of Andrew McDonald on behalf of Joint Intervenors (Oct. 07, 2020); Electronic Joint Application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates and Approval of a Demand Side Management Plan and Approval of Fossil Fuel-Fired Generating Unit Retirements, Case No. 2022-00402, Tendered Corrected Testimony of Andrew McDonald On Behalf of Joint Intervenors Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Solar Energy Society and Mountain Association (Jul. 24, 2023).

by helping to reduce energy costs and consumption, increase energy security, and build resilience in the face of climate change. Mountain Association has worked with hundreds of small commercial KU customers over fifteen (15) years providing financing to access investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, resulting in reduced operating expenses. In that time, they have helped more than 50 commercial KU customers make nearly 100 energy upgrades, as well as identifying numerous costly billing errors. As a result, these customers are saving over \$340,000 per year on their utility bills. At the same time, Mountain Association has assisted energy contractors with technical trainings and equipment financing to grow their businesses.

15. On December 4, 2020, Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman announced Mountain Association as the recipient of the 2020 Environmental Pacesetter Award, given for innovative efforts in protecting the environment and setting an example of environmental stewardship.⁷

16. Mountain Association focuses a key part of its programs and research on assisting small commercial ratepayers in Eastern Kentucky, who are often not represented in PSC cases, with cost saving measures. It also watches the effects of investments in energy infrastructure on the rate base. Mountain Association staff distill policy-related information and communicate that information out in a variety of accessible ways to help Eastern Kentuckians better understand how their everyday lives could be impacted by decisions at the state and federal level, such as those at issue in the instant case. Mountain Association and staff also possess significant

⁷ KYDEP, "Gov. Andy Beshear and Secretary Rebecca Goodman Announce Annual Environmental Awards of Excellence," Naturally Connected (Dec. 4, 2020), <u>https://kydep.wordpress.com/2020/12/04/gov-andy-beshear-and-secretary-rebecca-goodman-announce-annual-environmental-awards-of-excellence/</u>.

experience in assisting small commercial and governmental entities with installation of distributed energy resources, and understanding net metering tariffs, and has previously offered related expert testimony based in part on that expertise.⁸

Application of Standard

17. 807 KAR 5:001 Section 4(11)(b) provides that the Commission will grant full intervention status if the person "has special interests 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."

18. The special interests of Joint Movants in the pending CPCN are squarely within the ambit of the Commission's jurisdiction over rates and service, and as noted above and discussed below, are not adequately represented by existing parties. The participation of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Solar Energy Society, and Mountain Association as Joint Intervenors will neither complicate or disrupt the proceedings, since the discovery, testimony, and witnesses will be jointly offered by the four organizations, who have adopted internal procedures to assure timely decision-making and coordinated participation with one voice in this case. Joint Movants participated as Joint Intervenors most recently in Case No. 2025-00045, the Company's pending application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, and Joint Movants have participated as Joint Intervenors in Commission proceedings involving these and other utilities and have neither complicated nor disrupted those proceedings.

⁸ See, e.g., 2020 KPCo Rate Case, Direct Testimony of Joshua Bills, Commercial Energy Specialist, Mountain Association (Oct. 07, 2020).

19. This motion for intervention is timely, since under the Order entered on June 18, 2025 by the Commission in this case establishing the procedural schedule, a motion for intervention is deemed timely if filed not later than June 25, 2025.⁹ Joint Movants, if granted intervention, will accept and abide by the procedural schedule, including the filing of any comments, data requests, and response to any data requests, so that there is no prejudice to the applicant or other parties from the grant of full Joint Intervenor status to Joint Movants at this time.

20. This motion is being filed in parallel with a motion in Case No. 2025-00114, Electronic Application of Louisville Gas and Electric Company for an Adjustment of Its Electric and Gas Rates and Approval of Certain Regulatory and Accounting Treatments, requesting full intervention on behalf of KFTC, KYSES, and Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC). To the extent issues in that case, filed by KU sister company Louisville Gas & Electric ("LG&E") at the same time as this case, duplicate or parallel issues in this case, Joint Intervenors in each case will neither complicate or disrupt the proceedings, since the discovery, testimony, and witnesses will be jointly offered by the four organizations, who have adopted internal procedures to assure timely decision-making and coordinated participation with one voice in the two cases where issues overlap.

21. As demonstrated above for each organization, movants' interests in the case are different from those of the existing parties, and their participation is "likely to present issues or develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings."¹⁰

⁹ *Order* (June 18, 2025). ¹⁰ 807 KAR 5:001 §4(11)(a)1.

22. Existing parties to the proceeding do not adequately represent the interests of Joint Movants. No current party, including the Attorney General, represents the specific perspective and interests of Joint Movants, as discussed below.

23. Movant KFTC has a particularized interest and expertise in the impacts of rates charged by LG&E/KU, including effects on low-income ratepayer-members in Jefferson County and Central Kentucky, and across the state. KFTC's members include ratepayers that bear the costs and risks of utility rate-making, and have a direct interest in supporting reasoned decision-making by a well-informed regulator by putting forward expertise on rate-making and effects on low-income Kentuckians and Kentuckians of color, including from members who participate regularly in the organization's New Energy and Transition (NET) Committee and energy justice working groups.

24. Movant KYSES has a particularized interest and expertise in implementation of solar energy and renewables, including rate-making and the effects of rates current NMS-2 customers, as well as behind-the-meter alternatives to utility-scale projects. KYSES' expertise in renewable energy and energy conservation will advance the development of a complete record and well-informed decision-making, particularly regarding the effects of net metering tariffs on current and prospective solar customers, as well as the relation to other avoided supply-side alternatives.

25. Movant Mountain Association has a particularized interest and expertise in the effects of rate-making on communities, low-income individuals, and small businesses in Eastern Kentucky. These issues are directly relevant to the various of the requested rate changes and the overall rate-making process. Mountain Association staff have direct experience collaborating with LG&E/KU customers to help them to

understand, reduce, and afford energy bills, and develop more resilient and reliable energy resources, including behind-the-meter alternatives impacted by tariffs at issue. That interest and experience includes economic development needs and trends in central Kentucky and statewise, another matter particularly at issue in this proceeding.

26. In Case No. 2025-00045, the Company's pending application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, the Commission agreed that KFTC, KYSES, and Mountain Association's participation was "likely to present issues and develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings."¹¹ Similarly, in Cases Nos. 2020-00349, 2020-00350, 2021-00393, 2022-00402, 2023-00122, 2023-00404, 2023-00422, and 2024-00326 involving KU, some or all Joint Movants were also granted Joint Intervenor status, and their participation presented issues and developed facts assisting in full consideration of the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings. In various other cases involving other utilities across the state, including within the past year Case Nos. 2024-00115, 2024-00197, 2024-00310, and 2024-00370, some combination of joint intervenors have been granted intervention, and assisted in presenting issues and developing facts without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, Joint Movants Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Solar Energy Society, and Mountain Association respectfully request to be accorded the status of full Joint Intervenors, and that each party to the

¹¹ Case No. Electronic Application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates, *Order* at 1 (Mar. 28, 2025).

case be directed to serve upon the undersigned counsel, all future pleadings and documents that are filed in this case.

[Signatures on following page]

Respectfully Submitted,

Byroh L. Gary

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In accordance with the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19*, this is to certify that the electronic filing was submitted to the Commission on June 25, 2025; that the documents in this electronic filing are a true representation of the materials prepared for the filing; and that the Commission has not excused any party from electronic filing procedures for this case at this time.

Byron L. Gary