## **COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**

## **BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FOR AN)ALTERNATIVE ADJUSTMENT OF RATES)FOR MEADE COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC)COOPERATIVE CORPORATION PURSUANT)TO 807 KAR 5:078)

CASE NO. 2025-00159

## MOTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Comes now Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation ("Meade County RECC") by counsel, pursuant to KRS 61.878, 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13, and other applicable law, and respectfully moves the Commission to afford confidential treatment to certain information and documents filed by Meade County RECC in its Application in the above-styled matter. In support of this request, Meade County RECC states as follows:

1. On July 15, 2025, Meade County RECC filed its Application for a General Adjustment of Rates Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:078.

2. Meade County RECC requests the Commission to afford confidential protection to certain information being filed by Meade County RECC as part of its application. The information provided is proprietary, personal, confidential, sensitive, and commercially valuable information. 807 KAR 5:078, Section 3(6) required Meade County RECC to provide its current vegetative management contracts which Meade County RECC provided as Exhibit 8 to the Application. Additionally, Meade County RECC is providing employee specific contributions to health care and payroll costs in the Application, Exhibit 33, Exhibit-JW-2. This information is collectively

referred to as the "Confidential Information." If disclosed, this information would give a competitive advantage to competitors and would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

3. The Kentucky Open Records Act and applicable precedent exempts the Confidential Information from disclosure, including KRS 61.878(1)(a); KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1); *Zink v. Department of Workers Claims, Labor Cabinet*, 902 S.W.2d 825 (Ky. App. 1994); *Hoy v. Kentucky Industrial Revitalization* Authority, 907 S.W.2d 766, 768 (Ky. 1995). As stated above, the public disclosure of the Confidential Information would potentially harm Meade County RECC's competitive position in the marketplace which would be to the detriment of Meade County RECC and its members. Additionally, the Confidential Information is publicly unavailable, and its confidentiality is critical to Meade County RECC's effective execution of business decisions and strategy. For these reasons, the Confidential Information satisfies both the statutory and common law standards for affording confidential treatment.

4. The attachment provided as Exhibit 8 to the Application contains negotiated contracts with third party vendors. The public disclosure of these contracts would harm Meade County RECC in the negotiation of new vegetative management contracts in the future because companies would know the price Meade County RECC is willing to pay and raise prices and therefore should be granted confidential treatment pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

5. In the Application, Exhibit 33, Exhibit JW-2, Meade County RECC provided employee identifying contributions to health insurance and salary information. Meade County RECC has redacted the employee numbers pursuant to KAR 61.878(1)(a) because of the small size of Meade County RECC if these employee numbers are disclosed any person could identify who is who on the Meade County RECC staff. For this reason, this information should be granted confidential protection because it would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

2

6. The Confidential Information is proprietary information that is retained by Meade County RECC on a "need-to-know" basis and is only distributed by Meade County RECC only to those holding select positions who must have access for business reasons, and it is generally recognized as confidential and proprietary in the utility industry and elsewhere.

7. Meade County RECC does not object to limited disclosure of the Confidential Information described herein, pursuant to a confidentiality agreement, to intervenors with a legitimate interest in reviewing the same for the sole purpose of participating in this case.

8. Meade County RECC is requesting confidential protection for the entirety of the documents being provided for the Application, Exhibit 8 pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2)(a)3.b. For that reason, a redacted version of the Confidential Information is not being filed. In accordance with the provisions of 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2), Meade County RECC is filing one copy of the Confidential Information separately under seal, without highlights since confidential protection for the entire document is being sought and therefore no redacted version is being filed in the public record. The filing of the Confidential Information is noted in the public version of Exhibit 8 of the Application. Meade County RECC is providing a redacted version of Application, Exhibit 33, Exhibit JW-2 in the public record. Meade County RECC is providing a copy of the Confidential Information in the Application, Exhibit 33, Exhibit JW-2 separately under seal with highlights.

9. Also, in accordance with the provisions of 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13(2), Meade County RECC respectfully requests that the Confidential Information be withheld from public disclosure for an indefinite period.

10. If, and to the extent, the Confidential Information becomes publicly available or otherwise no longer warrants confidential treatment, Meade County RECC will notify the

3

Commission and seek to have confidential protection removed, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13(10).

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, Meade County RECC respectfully requests that the Commission classify and protect as confidential the specific Confidential Information described herein for an indefinite period.

This the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather S. Temple

L. Allyson Honaker Heather S. Temple Meredith Cave HONAKER LAW OFFICE PLLC 1795 Alysheba Way, Suite 1203 Lexington, Kentucky 40509 (859) 368-8803 allyson@hloky.com heather@hloky.com

Counsel for Meade County RECC

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that the electronic filing was transmitted to the Commission on July 15, 2025 and that there are currently no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding. Pursuant to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085 no paper copies of this filing will be made.

<u>Heather S. Temple</u> Counsel for Meade County RECC