COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GAS PIPELINE EXTENSION IN INDEPENDENCE, KENTUCKY	)))))	CASE NO. 2026-00112

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MELTON A. HUEY

ON BEHALF OF

DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY, INC.

May 1, 2026

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I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Melton A. Huey and my business address is 525 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A. I am employed by Duke Energy Business Services LLC (DEBS) as General Manager - Engineering, Planning, & Pipeline Integrity on behalf of Duke Energy Corporation's (Duke Energy) Natural Gas Business Unit (NGBU). The NGBU organization is responsible for the safe operation of all natural gas assets owned and operated by Duke Energy and affiliated companies of Duke Energy, including Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. (Duke Energy Kentucky or Company). Further, DEBS provides various administrative and other services to Duke Energy Kentucky and other affiliated companies of Duke Energy.

Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Mississippi State University in 1980. I am a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. From 1980 through 1987, I worked at Texaco U.S.A in several natural gas engineering roles. From 1988 through mid-1994, I worked at Delhi Gas Pipeline Corporation as a System Superintendent and regional engineering roles. From mid-1994 through 1996, I worked at Nicol & Associates as a senior consultant for natural gas engineering projects. From 1997 through early 2017, I worked at Washington Gas in various director roles. I began my career at Duke

Energy in 2017 as director of Natural Gas Asset Risk Management. In 2024, I assumed my current role as General Manager – Engineering, Planning, & Pipeline Integrity.

Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS GENERAL MANAGER – ENGINEERING, PLANNING, & PIPELINE INTEGRITY.

A. I am responsible for leading the design, engineering, technical support, system planning, transmission integrity management, distribution integrity management, and corrosion control teams that work to facilitate safe, reliable, and efficient natural gas delivery, investment prioritization, and compliance with all state and federal natural gas regulations for the NGBU within Duke Energy.

Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION?

A. Yes. Most recently I provided testimony in support of the Company's Certificate of Public Convenience (CPCN) Application for Phase Five of its AM07 natural gas pipeline replacement project in Case No. 2026-00086.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. My testimony provides a brief overview of Duke Energy Kentucky and its natural gas operations. I provide a summary of the Company's request in this proceeding for a CPCN and also discuss the need for and reasonableness of the Company's proposal to construct a new natural gas pipeline, consisting of four, six, and eight inch diameter pipeline segments, approximately 1.75 miles in total length in

Independence, Kentucky (Project), which will extend the existing UL45 pipeline, including the benefits to customers.

II. OVERVIEW OF DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY

Q. PLEASE GENERALLY DESCRIBE DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY'S OPERATIONS.

A. Duke Energy Kentucky is a regulated utility operating company that provides retail electric services in five counties and natural gas service in seven counties in northern Kentucky. Duke Energy Kentucky's local business office is in Erlanger, Kentucky, with the main business office in Cincinnati, Ohio. Duke Energy Kentucky serves a relatively densely populated territory that, though not heavily industrialized, includes a fairly diverse mix of customers.

Duke Energy Kentucky currently provides natural gas distribution service to approximately 100,000 customers in Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton Counties in northern Kentucky. The Company also owns, operates, and maintains approximately 1,620 miles of mains on our natural gas distribution system. Duke Energy Kentucky's gas and electric service territories encompass approximately 563 and 700 square miles, respectively.

Duke Energy's Gas Operations business is organized into the following functional groups: construction and maintenance, gas engineering, gas supply, integrity management, performance and compliance management, and our service delivery organization. These functional groups are designed to ensure the safe, reliable, and economic supply of natural gas services to Duke Energy Kentucky's customers. Gas Operations employs approximately 400 individuals who manage

the day-to-day operations of both the Kentucky and Ohio businesses. Additionally, Gas Operations has approximately 400 contract employees to assist in our mission.

III. DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY'S APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT A PIPELINE

Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY'S APPLICATION AND THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THIS PROCEEDING.

A. Duke Energy Kentucky is requesting the Commission issue a CPCN to begin construction of a new natural gas pipeline.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CONSTRUCTION PROPOSED IN THIS APPLICATION.

A. Duke Energy Kentucky is proposing to construct a new steel high pressure natural gas pipeline, consisting of four, six and eight inch segments, that will flow east to west across the central part of the Company's service territory. Once completed, the Project is estimated to be approximately 1.75 miles in total length and will extend the Company's existing UL45 pipeline.

Q. WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

A. The Project will add much needed supply and improved reliability in the central portion of the Company's natural gas delivery system in an area that is seeing rapid growth, providing a critical and necessary restoration of pressure along the high-pressure distribution system that is required to provide reliable service during severe winter weather. Although Duke Energy Kentucky has been able to meet customer needs with safe and reliable natural gas service, the Company must

properly time its infrastructure investments to respond to anticipated needs of our customers, improve the system integrity, and to alleviate stresses to the overall distribution system. The Project is necessary to respond to the needs of our customers and maintain existing levels of quality service and enhance reliability.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT.

A. This new pipeline will provide additional reliability to Duke Energy Kentucky's natural gas delivery system. The existing UL45 pipeline is an east-west pipeline that feeds the central portion of the Company's service territory. UL45 receives its supply from the constrained UL07 pipeline which connects back to a primary north-south line, AM03. The project parallels the UL07 pipeline back to AM03, providing critical looping to reduce pressure losses in the UL07 pipeline and provides the necessary inlet pressures to local delivery stations on UL07 and UL45 that serve the surrounding communities. The Project will allow additional natural gas pipeline capacity in areas of the service territory that are close to full utilization. These areas are experiencing low pressure in times of high consumption and the new pipeline will alleviate this pressure issue by increasing access to supply.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THE PROJECT WILL IMPROVE SATISFACTION AND CONVENIENCE TO CUSTOMERS.

A. The additional capacity will allow the Company to continue to accommodate load growth in the area and enhance levels of reliability during periods of high consumption. In addition, this additional pipeline will provide a level of system redundancy in terms of looping capability when there are constraints along the

existing pipeline due to scheduled or emergency outages. This capability will reduce the likelihood of customer outages that could occur without this capability.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THE PROJECT IS REASONABLE AND NECESSARY?

A. Yes. This project provides a critical and necessary restoration of pressure along the high-pressure distribution system in northern Kentucky that is required to provide reliable service during severe winter weather. The Project also increases available capacity throughout Boone and Kenton Counties.

Q. WILL THE PROJECT INTERFERE WITH ANY OTHER UTILITY'S OPERATIONS.

A. No, the Project will not interfere with any other utility's operations.

Q. WILL THE PROJECT DUPLICATE THE FACILITIES THAT DUKE ENERGY KENTUCKY ALREADY HAS IN PLACE?

A. No.

Q. IS THE COMPANY'S INVESTMENT IN THE PROJECT REASONABLE IN RELATION TO THE SERVICE THAT NEW FACILITIES WILL PROVIDE?

A. Yes.

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IV. FILING REQUIREMENT SPONSORED BY WITNESS

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FILING REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN THE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY THAT YOU ARE SPONSORING AND SUPPORTING.

A. I sponsor the need for the Project in response to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 15(2)(a).

V. CONCLUSION

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?

A. Yes.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG)

The undersigned, Melton A. Huey, GM Engineering, Planning & Pipeline Integrity, being duly sworn, deposes and says he has personal knowledge of the matters set forth in the foregoing testimony, and that the information contained therein is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

Melton A. Huey, Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Melton A. Huey on this 20th day of April, 2026.

NOTARY PUBLIC

SHANNON L. WALL
Notary Public, North Carolina
Mecklenburg County
My Commission Expires
June 28, 2027

My Commission Expires: 6/28/2027