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COMMISSION

January 4, 2010

David L. Armstrong, Chairman  
Kentucky Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 615  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

In Re: Kentucky Power Company's Request for A 35% Rate Increase

Dear Chairman Armstrong:

The recent power outage in Eastern Kentucky left us without power or city water from December 18, 2009 through December 27, 2009. My husband had just finished 38 radiation treatments for lung cancer the week prior to the power outage. He also suffers from bladder cancer and was receiving chemotherapy during the period of the outage. He is on oxygen 100% of the time and also has diabetes and serious heart problems. I called Kentucky Power Company and after three or four days, was finally able to speak to a real person rather than a recording. I advised them of my husband's health problems and their only suggestion was that we make other arrangements and/or go to the East Kentucky Expo Center in Pikeville, Kentucky, which was one of the shelters set up during the outage. Because of his chemotherapy treatments, my husband's immune system was compromised, which left him unable to go to a crowded shelter as the Kentucky Power Company's representative suggested. At considerable expense, we had to leave our home for nearly the duration of the outage. We returned to find that we had lost all the food in our refrigerator and freezer. We feel that the main contributor to this power outage was the fact that the right-of-way had not been maintained by Kentucky Power Company for at least 12-15 years in our area, and we suspect this to also be the case in most of the Southeastern Kentucky service area.

Putting aside how this power outage has cost and inconvenienced us personally, we were far more outraged when we read in our local paper, the Floyd County Times December 30, 2009 issue, that Kentucky Power Company has applied for a 35% rate increase to become effective January 29, 2010. Considering that the Kentucky Power Company services 20 Southeastern Kentucky counties with some of the highest unemployment rates in the state, and we hear daily of people losing their jobs, homes, and are unable to keep

up with their car payments, credit card debt, and bankruptcies at a record high, we feel that this is definitely not an appropriate time for this company to be granted any rate increase at all. Why should Kentucky Power Company be immune from sharing in some of the suffering that their customers have already experienced due to the failing economy?

Because this rate increase would affect 20 Kentucky counties, it will in no doubt also affect expenses incurred by local and state government, which are already facing budget deficits to the point that the state government is already looking into ways to cut costs. The requested increase if granted would also increase costs incurred by the school systems which are also facing budget problems. Dwindling revenues coming into county have them also facing budget problems. Increasing power rates at this time can do nothing but compound these already serious problems.

We live in a coal producing county and are aware that the price of coal has been greatly reduced within the last year, which should have reduced costs to Kentucky Power considerably, so we do not understand why this company is requesting such a large rate increase when their customers are expected to make all the sacrifices.

We request that you take all these factors into consideration when reviewing this rate increase request.

Sincerely,

  
Ronnie and Mary Sturgill