

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Name: Rose Burton (Yates)
Address: 6125 Cairo Road; Paducah, KY 42001

Case: Application of Big Rivers Electric Corp. for an Adjustment of Rates

Case No. 2012-00535

Comments: As a consumer of power through Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation (JPEC) I feel that the rate increase requested by Big Rivers Electric Corporation is **unfair, unjust and unreasonable**.

Per Big Rivers' own statements this rate increase is necessary because they are loosing their biggest customer, Century Aluminum. I have read statements that Century Aluminum can buy power on the open market for 30% less then what Big Rivers is charging. If that is the case, in order to be competitive Big Rivers needs to cut back on its overhead just like any other business. That could mean closing one or more of its four power plants. It's **unreasonable** for Big Rivers to expect to continue business as normal with residential customers compensating them for their loss in revenue. When they don't take the normal measures that any other industry or business in financial trouble would take to keep the cost of their product low, they are being **unfair and unjust** to residual consumers.

Personal conversations with local power plants indicate that due to the overall loss of business and industry in the area, there is an excess of available power. Local power generators are experiencing lay offs. Shouldn't Big Rivers be tightening its proverbial belt as well?

Now to address the owners of Big Rivers: According to Big Rivers' home page, it has three. One of them is JPEC. All local public announcements seem to indicate that the rate increase is just JPEC passing on the Big Rivers increase. If JPEC is an owner, what incentive do they have to look for lower rates from another provider? They are taking care of their own business to make sure the already financially strapped Big Rivers doesn't go bankrupt! All this is being done at the direct expense of JPEC's business and residential customers!