

Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)

From: PSC - Public Information Officer
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: your comments in case number 2012-00578 - Kentucky Power - acquisition of generating capacity

Dear Ms. Payne:

Thank you for your comments regarding the application by Kentucky Power Co. for acquisition of replacement generating capacity. Your comments will be placed into the case file for the Commission's review as it considers this matter. As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2012-00578. Please cite it in any future correspondence regarding this case so that your comments may be readily directed to the case file.

Thank you again for your interest.

Andrew Melnykovych
Director of Communications
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-782-2564 cell:502-330-5981

RECEIVED

By Kentucky Public Service Commission at 12:02 pm, May 29, 2013

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11:54 AM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer
Subject: case number 2012-00578

Please see the attached letter regarding comments around the Big Sandy Plant.

Thank you

Deborah Payne

Energy and Health Coordinator
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
<http://kyenvironmentalfoundation.org>

[REDACTED]

May 14, 2013

To the Public Service Commission

Re: Kentucky Power – Case 2012-00578.

As health professionals we are concerned about public health and the associated health care costs of environmental pollution.

We applaud Kentucky Power's effort to reduce air pollution through the retirement of their Big Sandy plant in Louisa, Kentucky. We are concerned, however, about their interest in purchasing coal-generated electricity from a power plant in West Virginia, as that decision would also result in negative health outcomes for Kentuckians.

Coal combustion creates sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, contaminants that have all been proven to have a direct link to respiratory and heart diseases like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, heart attacks and strokes. These air emissions can affect populations far from the pollution source. Data compiled by the Natural Resources Defense Council using EPA's Toxic Release Inventory shows that the Ohio River valley experiences some of the highest levels of air pollution in the nation from coal plants.¹ Health data indicates that residents in this region, including Kentuckians, experience these diseases and premature death from these diseases, at rates higher than other parts of the country. If American Electric Power provides its Kentucky ratepayers with electricity generated from the Mitchell power plant in West Virginia, it is merely shifting the source of disease-linked pollution.

The health care costs associated with these pollution-based diseases are high and are ultimately shouldered by communities and our state's health care system. For example, according to the Kentucky Hospital Association, the average cost for in patient treatment of an asthma attack is \$9,800 and the cost of a heart attack is approximately \$20,000.² Buying power from the Mitchell Plant only shifts the burden to communities in West Virginia. According to a report by Abt Associates, pollution from the Mitchell Plant can contribute to 780 asthma attacks and 83 heart attacks annually at a total cost of \$41,000 and \$9,100,000 respectively.³ This problem is exacerbated for many regional residents who are low-income, and increases the burden on Kentucky taxpayers given the higher rates of people who are uninsured.⁴

¹ Natural Resources Defense Council. Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania Have Worst Toxic Air Pollution from Power Plants <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2012/120809.asp>

² Kentucky Hospital Association, Kentucky Hospital Charge Information, <http://info.kyha.com/Pricing/MSDRG/SelectHospital.asp>

³ Clean Air Task Force. "Find Your Risk from Power Plant Pollution," accessed May 20, 2013.

⁴ Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, <http://www.healthyky.org/sites/default/files/docs/2011%20EKY.pdf>.

Job loss can also be bad for our health, and AEP should be encouraged to replace coal plant jobs with those in energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy. Research from the Harvard School of Public Health⁵ indicates that unemployment is linked to a range of poor health indicators including high blood pressure and diabetes. A November 2012 Duke study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine found that unemployment may also be linked to increased rates of heart attacks.⁶ While these factors should not be used to justify keeping a polluting plant open, it does indicate the need for shifts in Kentucky's energy sourcing to be focused on the jobs-and-health link in order to take advantage of the health and economic benefits of new clean energy employment opportunities.

Transitioning to cleaner energy sources and making investments in energy efficiency can reduce disease-causing pollution and can bring new jobs in to the region.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy have their own health benefits, aside from the offset in air and water pollution. An article in the journal *Indoor Air*⁷ reveals the health difference between efficient and inefficient ventilation. Efficient ventilation can protect and improve health whereas inefficient ventilation is associated with a range of health concerns including higher rates of respiratory disease, lower health-related quality of life and more frequent trips to the doctor.⁸

In summary, we encourage you to have Kentucky Power consider increasing cleaner, local sources of renewable energy generation and invest in energy efficiency measures that can keep our air and water clean, create jobs that can offset employment losses from the power plant, and reduce disease rates and health care costs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John A. Patterson MD, MSPH, FAAFP
Lexington, KY

⁵ Strully, K. Job Loss and Health in the US Labor Market. *Demography*. 2009 May; 46(2): 221-246.

⁶ The Cumulative Effect of Unemployment on Risks for Acute Myocardial Infarction Matthew E. Dupre, PhD; Linda K. George, PhD; Guangya Liu, PhD; Eric D. Peterson, MD, MPH *Arch Intern Med*. 2012;172(22):1731-1737.

⁷ Leech JA, Raizenne M, and Gusdorf J. Health in occupants of energy efficient new homes. *Indoor Air*. 2004; 14(3): 169-173.

⁸ Howden-Chapman P, et al. Effecto of insulating existing houses on health inequality: cluster randomized study in the community. *British Medical Journal*. 2007;334(7591)460.

Vicki Hawes-Holmberg MD
Emergency Medicine ABEM certified
Lexington, Kentucky

Beverly May, RN, MSN, FNPc
Langley, Ky

Joan Moore, ARNP.
Richmond, KY

Charlene Holloway, RN
Louisville, KY

Deborah Payne, MPH
Berea, KY

Melnykovich, Andrew (PSC)

From: PSC - Public Information Officer
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:20 PM
To: 'Tarence Ray'
Subject: RE: your comments in case number 2012-00578 - Kentucky Power - acquisition of generating capacity

Dear Mr. Ray:

Thank you for your comments regarding the application by Kentucky Power Co. for acquisition of replacement generating capacity. Your comments will be placed into the case file for the Commission's review as it considers this matter. As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2012-00578. Please cite it in any future correspondence regarding this case so that your comments may be readily directed to the case file.

Thank you again for your interest.

Andrew Melnykovich

Director of Communications
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-782-2564 cell:502-330-5981

RECEIVED

By Kentucky Public Service Commission at 1:48 pm, May 29, 2013

From: Tarence Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:15 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer
Subject: Case 2012-00578 -- Require KPCo to Invest in Affordable Clean Energy and Efficiency

Dear Kentucky Public Service Commission,

I am writing to ask the Public Service Commission to reject Kentucky Power Company's (KPCo) proposal to purchase a 50% stake in the Mitchell coal plant in West Virginia. KPCo, a subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP), says this is the least cost option. But they have failed to seriously consider reasonable alternatives. This is a costly proposal that will place an unnecessary financial burden on ratepayers.

Aggressive investment in an energy efficiency program, as AEP has done in Ohio, would be the lowest cost option for ratepayers while providing stability to eastern Kentucky's economy. A study in 2009 in Kentucky concluded that a program of energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation could create thousands more jobs than investing in a coal plant, and at a lower cost.

It's time to move Kentucky forward and put us on a path to a clean, renewable energy future. KPCo should be investing in homegrown renewable energy solutions that will diversify their energy portfolio and provide stability for ratepayers. The PSC and KPCo have the opportunity to not only make the most cost-effective investment through renewables and energy efficiency, they have the chance to be a model for responsibility to the communities they serve and show leadership in planning for energy stability for current and future generations of Kentuckians.

Sincerely,

Tarence Ray
1338 Jenkins Road, Apt B
Whitesburg, KY 41858