

## Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)

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**From:** PSC - Public Information Officer  
**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2013 11:31 AM  
**To:** 'Bertke, Patricia'  
**Subject:** your comments in case number 2013-00199 - Big Rivers Electric Corp. rates

Dear Ms. Bertke:

Thank you for your comments regarding the rate increase proposed by Big Rivers Electric Corp. 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 2013-00199. 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 11:50 am, Dec 23, 2013*

-----Original Message-----

From: Bertke, Patricia [REDACTED] [1](#)  
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 10:30 AM  
To: PSC - Public Information Officer  
Subject: psc case number 2013-00199 energy rate increases

PSC,  
Attached please find my written comment for consideration prior to the Jan 7 hearing.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia E Bertke  
Instructor  
School of Teacher Education  
WKU-O  
109D  
4821 New Hartford Rd  
Owensboro KY 42303

[REDACTED] Main Line  
FAX: 2 [REDACTED]

PSC Case Number 2013-00199

Dear Members of the Public Service Commission, I am having a difficult time understanding how I should be responsible for paying for energy I do not use. I have read the annual reports from Big Rivers and Kenergy, who is my Electric coop,

and it seems as if they got used to getting a large sum of money for what they were doing, and spent outside themselves. I understand that closing a plant and letting go of non-essential workers may not cover all the losses the electric corporation will sustain, however common sense should prevail: "when you don't have it you can't spend it"! Add to that: "if people are not using it, why are you still making it, or buying it?" My last statement should be the major consideration, not having the residential community foot the bill for the loss of industry.

This is my story:

My house was built with six inch exterior walls, metal framing, geothermal heating and cooling, insulation beyond what was reasonable, including roof space. I have LED lighting, and the two of us left in this house work full time, so we are not even home a good portion of the day. Our energy consumption remains the same each day, every year, for the last eleven years we have been in this house. Still, with the first rate increase we are paying at least \$1.40 MORE each day. We are on a fixed incomes, and live minimally and responsibly. We do not purchase what we cannot afford. Since residents are being encouraged to save and conserve energy use, that will add to even more loss to the electric company and rates will go even higher, especially if the company refuses to reduce operations and generation (or purchase) of electricity.

LESS is costing MORE! Please encourage the Electric Company to tighten its own belt before asking for residents to tighten theirs!

Thank you for reading this. I know your task is a challenging one, one wrought with difficult decisions. We implore you to consider making the corporations take on the responsibility of cutting costs, by cutting production, not keeping production and passing the costs to the residents. I am hoping you DENY the second rate increase.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bertke

Hancock County resident; Kenergy Customer

## Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)

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**From:** PSC - Public Information Officer  
**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2013 11:32 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** your comments in case number 2013-00199 - Big Rivers Electric Corp. rates

Dear Mr. Brandle:

Thank you for your comments regarding the rate increase proposed by Big Rivers Electric Corp. 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 2013-00199. 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*

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211 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
502-782-2564 cell:502-330-5981

**RECEIVED**

*By Kentucky Public Service Commission at 11:51 am, Dec 23, 2013*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2013 10:31 AM  
**To:** PSC - Public Information Officer  
**Subject:** 2013-00199

Public Service Commission

I am against any rate increase by Big Rivers. As a customer of Kenergy, living on a limited income, I cannot afford the raising of the rates by Big Rivers. It seems so easy to pass the buck to the customers as that is what everyone else does. Big Rivers is about to enter the "Deep Hole" when the other industrial customers go to the open market for electricity, then what will you do? Big Rivers will once again submit to the PSC another rate increase and like so many times in the past, it gets your blessing.

Evidently, over the years, Big Rivers never planned for this type of "Disaster." Perhaps Big Rivers has been "gouging" its customers? When you read in the paper, Big Rivers is still hiring for upper level management, where does this money come from? You have got that right, just another "Rate Increase!" I don't know about the PSC, but I don't exist to keep "Bailing Out" corporations that may have been mismanaged over the years. Is Big Rivers too big to "Fail?" When Big Rivers runs their numbers, you see just a percentage number for the increase whether its 20% or 30%, the increase seems so insignificant as compared to a billion dollar industry. If I was making \$100,00.00 a year, it probably not bother me to much, but I don't make that kind of money. Has Big Rivers made any major concessions, yes, they are idling several locations. Once the fox has exited the hen house, the damage has already taken place. Evidently they think so and if you approve this increase, when does it stop!

Who will Bail me out when I can no longer afford Big Rivers Electricity?

Steve Brandle  
Kenergy Customer

Owensboro, Ky.

## Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)

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**From:** Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2013 11:33 AM  
**To:** 'CONNIE H WYATT'  
**Subject:** your comments in case number 2013-00199 - Big Rivers Electric Corp. rates

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Thank you for your comments regarding the rate increase proposed by Big Rivers Electric Corp. 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 2013-00199. 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*

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

**RECEIVED**

By Kentucky Public Service Commission at 11:50 am, Dec 23, 2013

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**From:** CONNIE H WYATT [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 11:29 AM  
**To:** Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)  
**Subject:** RE: Case # 2013-00199

12/19/13

RE: Case # 2013-00199

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a customer of "Kenergy", living in Princeton, KY. My account number is 7-437-88-007-02-9. This letter is in regard to the 2nd RATE INCREASE proposed in less than one year from now. I signed up with Kenergy's BUDGET PLAN in October of 2012 at which time they tallied up my expected usage would be \$118.00 per month for 11 months and the "Settle-Up" would be in the 12th month. The person I spoke with told me that historically the bill would be "0" dollars and that they would give me a credit for the difference due. Also, that the bill would be very low and definitely less than \$118.00. When the actual bill came, I owed \$153.64.

I called them and was told I used a lot more electricity than last year. Also that they had a regular rate increase in the Spring of the year (nothing to do with the alledged 20% increase) and that the new budget rate would be \$168.00 per month (a \$50.00 increase over the year before). All of this was a result of one "BIG INDUSTRIAL" user was backing out of Kenergy. This large user of energy power had asked them for a

reduction in rate due to the cost involved in running their company. I was told that Kenergy refused their request because they anticipated the other large users would want the same deal and that was the reason for the 20% increase. Now, the other large user, Century Aluminum, in Sebree, KY. is also pulling out and Kenergy is raising their rates by 21.5% AGAIN.

As a retiree on a fixed income, I'm now having to pay \$168.00 per month to Kenergy which is difficult because other utilities have also raised their rates (LP gas, etc.).

If it is a "true 21.5% increase" of \$36.12, my new rate for 2014 will be \$204.12 (which is a 75% increase) over my 2013 rate of \$118.00.

I think this is very UNFAIR for their customers in Caldwell County. Many people, like myself, are retired and live on a fixed income. Why doesn't Kenergy pull out of the Big Rivers Corporation? We are paying for decisions based on nothing to do with our county. Wouldn't it have been better to give the two large companies a break on their electric bill instead of allowing them to pull out of their program? What am I supposed to do? I feel as though I'm being forced, along with others, to go live in a cave somewhere.

Whatever you can do to help us will be GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Sincerely,

George W. Large, II  
546 St. Rt. 293 N  
Princeton, KY. 42445