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and New York

RECEIVED

MAR 28 2016

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Via Hand Delivery

March 28, 2016

Hon. James W. Gardner

Acting Executive Director

Public Service Commission

211 Sower Boulevard, P.O. Box 615

Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Re: In the Matter of: An Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Big Rivers Electric Corporation

from May 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015

Case No. 2016-00006

Dear Chairman Gardner:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Big Rivers Electric Corporation are: (i) an original and seven (7) copies of Big Rivers' responses to the Public Service Commission Staff's third request for information in the above-referenced matter, and (ii) an original and ten (10) copies of a petition for confidential treatment. I certify that on this date, a copy of this letter, a copy of the responses, and a copy of the petition were served on all parties of record by first-class mail.

Sincerely,

Tyson Kamuf

Counsel for Big Rivers Electric Corporation

TAK/lm

Enclosures

Telephone (270) 926-4000 Telecopier (270) 683-6694

cc. DeAnna Speed

100 St. Ann Building
PO Box 727
Owensboro, Kentucky
42302-0727

www.westkylaw.com

ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAR 28 2016

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF KENTUCKY

In the Matter of:

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION)	
OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE)	Casa Na
OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION)	Case No.
FROM)	2016-00006
MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015)	

Responses to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

FILED: March 28, 2016

ORIGINAL

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

VERIFICATION

I, Lawrence V. (Larry) Baronowsky, verify, state, and affirm that the data request responses filed with this verification for which I am listed as a witness are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Lawrence V. (Larry) Baronowsky

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
COUNTY OF HENDERSON)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me by Lawrence V. (Larry) Baronowsky on this the 262 day of March, 2016.

Notary Public, Kentucky State at Large

My Commission Expires

Notary Public, Kentucky State-At-Large My Commission Expires: July 3, 2018 ID 513528

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

VERIFICATION

I, Nicholas R. (Nick) Castlen, verify, state, and affirm that the data request responses filed with this verification for which I am listed as a witness are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Nicholas R. (Nick) Castlen

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
COUNTY OF HENDERSON)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me by Nicholas R. (Nick) Castlen on this the 285 day of March, 2016.

Notary Public, Kentucky State at Large

My Commission Expires

Notary Public, Kentucky State-At-Large My Commission Expires: July 3, 2018 ID 513528

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

VERIFICATION

I, Mark W. McAdams, verify, state, and affirm that the data request responses filed with this verification for which I am listed as a witness are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Mark W. McAdams

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
COUNTY OF HENDERSON)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me by Mark W. McAdams on this the day of March, 2016.

Notary Public, Kentucky State at Large

My Commission Expires

Notary Public, Kentucky State-At-Large My Commission Expires: July 3, 2018 ID 513528

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

VERIFICATION

I, Murray W. (Wayne) O'Bryan, verify, state, and affirm that the data request responses filed with this verification for which I am listed as a witness are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Murray W. (Wayne) OBryan

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
COUNTY OF HENDERSON)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me by Murray W. (Wayne) O'Bryan on this the 2004 day of March, 2016.

Notary Public, Kentucky State at Large

My Commission Expires

Notary Fublic, Kentucky State-At-Large My Commission Expires: July 3, 2018 ID 513528

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1	Item 1)	In	its monthly fuel adjustment clause ("FAC") backup files, Big
2	Rivers pr	ovide	s an analysis of coal purchases that includes a state and
3			umber for the source of the coal.
4			
5		a.	Confirm that Big Rivers is using District No. 9 (for
6			western Kentucky) when identifying Kentucky coal
7			districts in its FAC backup filings.
8		b.	State whether the state and coal district numbers are
9			those utilized by the Mine Safety and Health
0			Administration. If not, state the entity that designates the
1			coal district numbers utilized by Big Rivers in its FAC
2			backup filings.
3		c.	For the entity identified in part b. above, provide a map
4			showing the current coal districts.
5		d.	Provide the date of the last change made by the entity
6			identified in part b. above to the coal district numbering.
7			If Big Rivers did not begin using the new coal district
8			numbering when the change was made, explain why.
9		e.	Explain the input and review process for the state and
20		•	coal district numbers provided in the monthly analysis of
21			coal purchase schedule and how Big Rivers ensures that
22			the information is accurate.
23			vivo vivjoi newevore va woom week

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

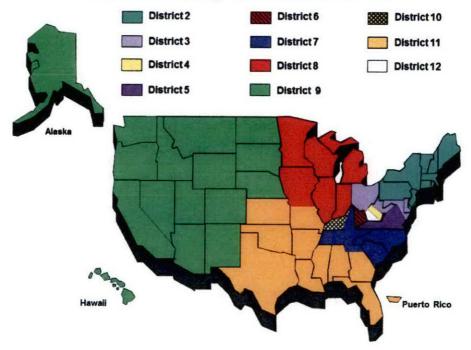
1	Response)		
2	a	ı. I	Big Rivers has been using District No. 9 for western Kentucky,
3		Ι	District 10 for Illinois and District 11 for Indiana. These are the
4		d	listrict numbers Big Rivers has used since 2009; Big Rivers
5		υ	itilized the Mine Safety and Health Administration ("MSHA")
6		Ι	Data Retrieval System to obtain the district numbers in 2009.
7		E	Based upon further review following the Commission's
8		i	nformation request, Big Rivers has discovered that (i) western
9		F	Kentucky should be denoted as District 10, and (ii) Illinois and
10		I	ndiana should be denoted as District 8.
11	b). F	Please see Big Rivers' response to sub-item 1a.
12	c.	. E	Big Rivers cannot locate its prior map; however, Big Rivers
13		a	ttaches the most recent map for the coal districts. An
14		e	lectronic copy of this map may be found at:
15		h	attp://arlweb.msha.gov/DISTRICT/COALHOME.HTM
16	d	l. E	Big Rivers was not aware that a change had occurred nor does
17		E	Big Rivers recollect any notice that any redistricting had
18		O	ccurred. Please see Big Rivers' response to sub-item 1a.
19	e	. E	Big Rivers utilizes the monthly Big Rivers Fuel Purchases
20		I	nternal Report to verify for each generating station the source
21		O	f coal purchased, including the mine and state of the coal
22		O	rigin. FAC Backup files are reviewed internally. Big Rivers
23		V	vill review its process to assure filings going forward reflect

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1		information from the MSHA Data Retrieval System for each	coal
2		purchase.	
3			
4			
5	Witness)	Mark W. McAdams	
6		,	

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION Coal Mine Safety and Health Districts



Immediately Reportable Accidents

All mine operators are required to immediately call MSHA's toll free number at 1-800-746-1553 to report an immediately reportable accident or emergency to MSHA. Mine operators must call immediately when an accident has occurred or has been determined to have occurred, but no later than 15 minutes from the time of the occurrence or determination of the occurrence.

Hazardous Condition Complaint

To report a hazardous condition at a mine you may call your District Office, the MSHA hotline number 1-800-746-1553, or <u>submit your complaint online</u>. Additional information can be obtained using <u>this link</u>.

Maps to District and Field Offices

Text Version of Districts Map Above

District 2	Pennsylvania
District 3	Maryland, Ohio, and Northern West Virginia
District 4	Southern West Virginia to include the following counties - Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Summers, Webster
District 5	Virginia
District 6	Eastern Kentucky
District 7	Central Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee
District 8	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Northern Missouri and Wisconsin Case No. 2016-00006
District 9	Attachment for Response to Third Staff Item 1c.
	Witness: Mark W. McAdams
	Page 1 of 2

	Oregon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico
District 10	Western Kentucky
District 11	Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Southern Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
District 12	Southern West Virginia to include the following counties - Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Wayne, Wyoming

Note: Some of these states, while within a district's coverage, may not be currently mining coal.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

March 28, 2016

Refer to Big Rivers' response to the Commission's February 5.

1

24

Item 2)

	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
2	2016 Request for Information ("Commission's First Request"), Item 24.
3	Explain why the heat rates provided in the response for the months of July
4	2015 and October 2015 do not reconcile with the heat rates shown for the
5	Wilson unit in the FAC backup files submitted for those two months.
6	
7	Response) The heat rates published in the monthly Form B filings to the
8	Commission do not match the heat rates quoted in Big Rivers' response to Item 24
9	of the Commission's First Request in this case because the two heat rates are
10	calculated for different purposes. The heat rates published in the monthly Form B
11	filings are calculated using the total BTUs of fuel burned by the unit for the
12	month, including start-up fuel, divided by the total net kWh's generated by the
13	unit for the month. The BTUs per pound of fuel in this method are calculated
14	using the "as received" fuel analysis for all the fuel that was received for the
15	month. For discussion purposes, Big Rivers will call this the "accounting heat
16	rate."
17	Big Rivers also calculates a unit performance heat rate that reflects
18	the performance of its units each month for benchmarking and key performance
19	indicator comparisons. This heat rate is calculated using the BTU's of fuel burned
20	by the unit for the month, excluding start-up fuel, divided by the net "online"
21	kWhs generated by the unit for the month. For performance calculations, online
22	kWhs exclude generation from a unit that does not have twenty-four (24) service
23	hours in that day. The BTU's per pound of fuel burned are calculated using the

"as fired" fuel analysis, because this method reflects the quality of fuel that was

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

	. 11							_	_			
1	actually ser	it to	the	furnace to	make k	:Wh's	during	the n	ionth.	Pl	ease see	the
2	attachment	to	this	response,	which	Big	Rivers	files	with	a	Petition	for
3	Confidentia	l Tre	atme	ent, and wl	nich sho	ws th	e differ	ent ca	lculati	on 1	methods	and
4	explains mo	re fu	lly w	hy the two	heat rat	e nun	abers ca	nnot b	e com	pare	ed.	
5												
6												
7	Witness)	Law	renc	e V. Baron	owsky							
ደ												

Big Rivers Electric Corporation Case No. 2016-00006 Heat Rate Calcualtions

		Ju	ly		-	-
ounting Heat	Rate As Reported	on Form B	Perfor	rmance Heat	Rate w/o Start Up Fu	el or kWh
1	Net Kwh w/start-up As Received	270,882,470			Net Kwh w/o start-up As Fired	262,454,417
106,801.27	11,491	2,454,506,787,140.00	Coal	103,198.00		
57,999.72	138,000	8,003,961,360.00	Oil	29,652.00	138,000	
15,353.00	14,142	434,244,252,000.00	Pet Coke	14,901.00		
•	Total BTU	2,896,755,000,500.00			Total BTU	
]	Net BTU/kwh	10,694			Net BTU/kwh	
lb 11,824			Solid fuel BTU	/lb		
				-	_	
	106,801.27 57,999.72 15,353.00	Net Kwh w/start-up As Received 106,801.27 11,491 57,999.72 138,000 15,353.00 14,142 Total BTU Net BTU/kwh	Net Kwh w/start-up 270,882,470 As Received 106,801.27 11,491 2,454,506,787,140.00 57,999.72 138,000 8,003,961,360.00 15,353.00 14,142 434,244,252,000.00 Total BTU 2,896,755,000,500.00 Net BTU/kwh 10,694	Net Kwh w/start-up 270,882,470 As Received 106,801.27 11,491 2,454,506,787,140.00 Coal 57,999.72 138,000 8,003,961,360.00 Oil 15,353.00 14,142 434,244,252,000.00 Pet Coke Total BTU 2,896,755,000,500.00 Net BTU/kwh 10,694	Net Kwh w/start-up 270,882,470 As Received 106,801.27 11,491 2,454,506,787,140.00 Coal 103,198.00 57,999.72 138,000 8,003,961,360.00 Oil 29,652.00 15,353.00 14,142 434,244,252,000.00 Pet Coke 14,901.00 Total BTU 2,896,755,000,500.00 Net BTU/kwh 10,694	Net Kwh w/start-up

-	_		Oct	ober			
A	ccounting Hea	at Rate As Reported	on Form B	Perform	nance Heat	Rate w/o Start Up F	fuel or kWh
		Net Kwh w/start-up As Received	295,731,727			Net Kwh w/o start-up As Fired	295,731,727
Coal	115,487.53	11,529	2,662,911,466,740.00	Coal	115,487.53		
Oil	9,508.13	138,000	1,312,121,940.00	Oil	9,508.13	138,000	
Pet Coke	13,663.00	14,144	386,498,944,000.00	Pet Coke	13,663.00		
		Total BTU	3,050,722,532,680.00			Total BTU	
		Net BTU/kwh	10,316			Net BTU/kwh	
Solid fuel BT	TU/lb 11,806			Solid fuel BTU/lb			-
					'	_	

Case No. 2016-00006 Attachment for Response to Third Staff Item 2 Witness: Lawrence V. Baronowsky Page 1 of 1

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1	Item 3) Refer to Big Rivers' response to the Commission's First
2	Request, Item 25. The question should have asked whether all fuel
3	contracts related to commodity and/or transportation had been filed with
4	the Commission instead of specifying long-term contracts. State whether
5	all contracts have been filed.
6	
7	Response) No. Big Rivers has filed with the Commission all long-term fuel
8	contracts (those contracts being greater than one year in duration or term) related
9	to coal, petroleum coke, transportation of coal or petroleum coke, and natural gas.
10	Big Rivers has not filed short-term or spot duration purchase agreements (those
11	agreements being less than one-year in term) related to coal, petroleum coke,
12	transportation of coal or petroleum coke, and/or natural gas. However, typically,
13	Items 1 and 2 of the Commission's Staff's First Request for Information in each
14	fuel adjustment clause review ask Big Rivers to identify all spot duration
15	purchases, and Big Rivers does identify all spot duration purchases in its
16	responses to those requests.
17	Big Rivers is unaware of any prior Commission request to file all
18	short-term spot fuel agreements. However, Big Rivers archives all agreements
19	and can provide such spot agreements for any period of time the Commission
20	desires.
21	Finally, Big Rivers has filed all of its natural gas contracts with the
22	Commission as stated in Big Rivers' response, filed February 19, 2016, to Item 2 of
23	the Commission Staff's Request for Information dated February 5, 2016.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1		
2		
3	Witnesses)	Mark W. McAdams (Coal) and
4		Wayne O'Bryan (Natural Gas)
5		

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

March 28, 2016

1 Item 4) Refer to Big Rivers' response to Commission Staffs Second 2 Request for Information ("Staffs Second Request"), Item l.a. Explain how 3 the existence of the barge charter and tugboat charter impact the analysis 4 of coal bids received by Big Rivers (i.e., do the agreements make 5 transportation costs cheaper from certain coal suppliers?).

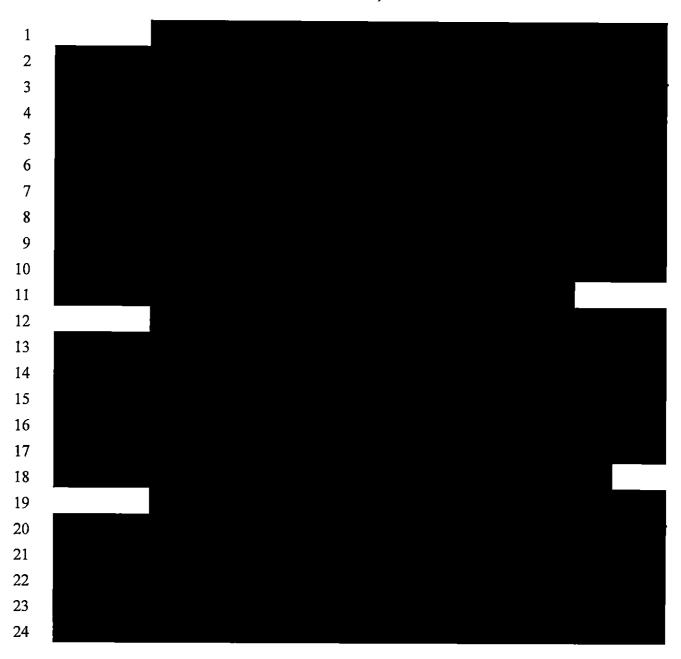
6

7 Response) 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

March 28, 2016

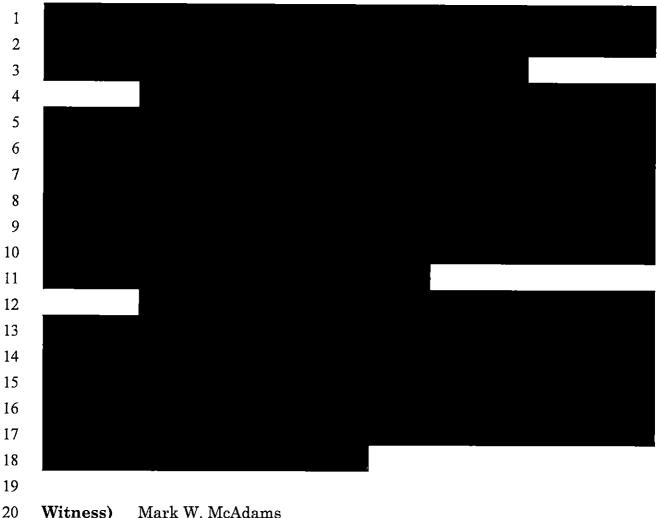


Case No. 2016-00006 Response to Third Staff Item 4 Witness: Mark W. McAdams Page 2 of 3

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

March 28, 2016



Witness) Mark W. McAdams

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1	Item 5) Refer to Big Rivers' response to Staffs Second Request, Item
2	l.b., the attachment filed under petition for confidential treatment, pages
3	2-4 of 31. State whether the amounts in the "Current" column represent
4	the barge transportation rates Big Rivers is currently paying absent a
5	lease or charter agreement. If not, explain what the amounts represent.
6	
7	Response) The column labeled "Current" was the then current rate from
8	, for barge transportation services that were
9	to expire April 30, 2014. The bid for transportation services to be provided beyond
10	the term of the expiring contract included four competing firms -
11	– as noted on
12	the bid evaluation sheet. sold its business to . Including the then
13	current rate (albeit, the rate was destined to soon expire) was to provide an
14	indicative marker from past pricing versus the current-bid market pricing for
15	anyone reviewing the bid analysis.
16	
17	
18	Witness) Mark W. McAdams
19	

· i,

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1	Item 6)	Ref	fer to Big Rivers' response to Staffs Second Request, Item 2,
2	Attachme		
3			
4		a.	Explain how Big Rivers decided on the methodology used
5			for calculating its highest-cost unit.
6		b .	Confirm this attachment indicates that when the highest-
7			cost unit operates during the month, Big Rivers calculates
8			the \$/MWh based on the actual operation of the unit. If
9			this cannot be confirmed, explain how the \$/MWh is
10			calculated.
I 1		c.	Confirm that this attachment indicates that when the
12			highest-cost unit is available but does not operate during
13			the month. Big Rivers calculates the \$/MWh using the
14			maximum (or most efficient) level at which the unit can
15			operate. If this can be confirmed, provide the heat rate
16			used in the calculation. If this cannot be confirmed,
17			explain how the \$/MWh is calculated.
18		d.	Provide the origin of the natural gas price used in parts b.
19			and c. above.
20		е.	Explain why the heat rates for June, July, and September
21			are higher than for the other months of the review period.
22		f.	For each month of the review period, provide the natural
23		1	gas price used in the calculation of the highest-cost unit.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1	Response)		
2		a.	Big Rivers' methodology for calculating its highest-cost unit, for
3			purposes of calculating its monthly FAC factor, was developed
4			based on the requirements of 807 KAR 5:056 and discussions
5			with members of the Commission Staff.
6			The current methodology for calculating the fuel cost per
7			MWh of generation for Big Rivers' Reid Combustion Turbine
8			("CT"), for purposes of determining the highest cost unit during
9			a month, was based on discussions among members of the
10			Commission Staff, Ralph Ashworth (Big Rivers' former Director
11			Accounting/Finance), and David Ashby (Big Rivers' Power and
12			Fuels Accounting Supervisor) during an informal conference call
13			in early 2012. Based on Big Rivers' notes from this call, if the
14			Reid CT operated during the month, its actual fuel cost of
15			generation per net MWh of generation (calculated by dividing its
16			total fuel cost by its net MWh generation during the month)
17			should be used for purposes of determining Big Rivers' highest
18			cost unit during the month. If the Reid CT was available but did
19			not operate during the month, Big Rivers should calculate a
20			hypothetical cost of fuel per MWh that the unit could have
21			generated power, using the lowest daily natural gas price during
22			the month (based on the daily natural gas prices provided by

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

1		ACES Power Marketing) and assuming the unit operated at
2		maximum capacity (or its most efficient level).
3	b.	Confirmed.
4	c.	Confirmed. If the Reid CT was available, but did not operate
5		during the month, Big Rivers calculates a hypothetical cost of
6		fuel per MWh that the unit could have generated power, using
7		the lowest daily natural gas price during the month (based on
8		the daily natural gas prices provided by ACES Power
9		Marketing) and assuming the unit operated at maximum
10		capacity (or its most efficient level).
11		During the review period, the heat rate used for
12		calculating the Reid CT's cost of fuel per MWh, when it was
13		available but did not operate during the month, was 12,091.66
14		BTU/kWh.
15	d.	The natural gas prices used in sub-parts 6b. and 6c. are
16		provided to Big Rivers daily by email from ACES Power
17		Marketing.
18	e.	The Reid CT heat rates for June, July, and September 2015,
19		shown in the attachment to Big Rivers' March 11, 2016,
20		response to Item 2 of Commission Staff's Second Request for
21		Information dated March 1, 2016, are higher than the other
22		months during the review period because the unit was online
23		generating for some period during the month and the actual

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

March 28, 2016

BTUs of gas consumed are divided by the net generation to
provide the actual BTU/kWh. Using the hours-in-service and
the net megawatts generated, one can calculate that the unit
was being operated at very low load. When the Midcontinent
Independent System Operator ("MISO") dispatches the unit for
system reliability instead of generation, MISO wants it on line
at minimum load for spinning reserve. According to the
calculated heat rate curve published by the manufacturer for
this unit, the expected gross heat rate at 10 MW is 30,636
BTUs/kWh, and at 20 MW the expected gross heat rate is 19,458
BTUs/kWh. The heat rate curve confirms that the heat rates on
the aforementioned attachment for June, July, and September
are in line with the expected heat rates. During the months of
May and August the unit did not run. During the months the
unit does not run, Big Rivers uses the average full load heat rate
that was calculated during times that the unit was operating at
full load, making the heat rate and the unit cost in \$/MWh much
lower than if it were being operated at low load for system
reliability. The expected heat rate chart below reflects values
taken from the equipment manufacturers calculated heat rate
curve.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE OF BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC CORPORATION FROM MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 CASE NO. 2016-00006

Response to Commission Staff's Third Request for Information dated March 18, 2016

March 28, 2016

Big Rivers Electric Corporation Reid CT – Expected Heat Rate			
Gross MWs	Estimated Natural Gas Burn (CFM)	BTUs per Hour	Gross Heat Rate (BTUs / kWhs)
10	37	306,360,000	30,636
15	42	347,760,000	23,184
20	47	389,160,000	19,458
25	52	430,560,000	17,222
30	57	471,960,000	15,732
35	62	513,360,000	14,667
40	67	554,760,000	13,869
45	72	596,160,000	13,248
50	77	637,560,000	12,751
55	82	678,960,000	12,345
60	87	720,360,000	12,006
65	92	761,760,000	11,719
70	97	803,160,000	11,474

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f. The table below includes the natural gas prices used to calculate the Reid CT's fuel cost of generation (on \$/MWh basis), for purposes of determining Big Rivers' highest cost unit for each month during the review period.

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1

Big Rivers Electric Corporation Natural Gas Prices for Calculating Reid CT Fuel Cost of Generation		
Expense Month	Natural Gas Price (\$/MCF) ⁽¹⁾	
May-15	\$3.06 (2)	
Jun-15	\$3.41 (3)	
Jul-15	\$3.34 (3)	
Aug-15	\$3.08 (2)	
Sep-15	\$3.19 (3)	
Oct-15	See Note (4)	

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Note(s):

4 5 (1) Includes delivery costs.

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and August 2015. Accordingly, the amounts included above for these months represent the lowest daily natural gas price during each month (provided by ACES Power Marketing) which was used to calculate the hypothetical

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fuel cost per MWh that the Reid CT could have generated

The Reid CT was available, but did not operate during May

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power during the month if it had operated at its maximum

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(3) The Reid CT operated during June, July, and September 2015. Accordingly, the amounts included above for these

(or most efficient) level of generation.

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1			months represent the actual price paid for natural gas used
2			for generation by the Reid CT.
3		(4)	Because the Reid CT did not operate and was not available
4			during October 2015, no natural gas price was used in the
5			calculation of the highest-cost unit.
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8	Witnesses)	Nicholas	R. Castlen (a., b., c., d., and f. only) and
9		Lawrenc	e V. Baronowsky (e. only)
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