



DAVID CARROLL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Nov 9, 2017

RECEIVED

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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

KY Public Service Commission
PO Box 615
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort KY 40602

RE: KY Power Rate Case 2017-00179

To Whom It May Concern:

My agency administers the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and we also receive funds from the DSM program. I assume you are aware the LIHEAP program is a program for income qualifying clients.

For the 2016-17 season, we served over 5,000 clients with heating assistance in our five Eastern Kentucky counties. A little over 2,000 of those clients were KY Power customers. Additionally, several of our offices are served by KY Power.

First, I must state that we work well with KY Power on our DSM program and it has helped many of our Weatherization clients with additional energy savings measures. Speaking only on behalf of my agency, within the last few years, as a result of the rate settlement case and the closing of the Big Sandy plant, there was an increase in DSM funding. This resulted in the DSM program implementing other non-traditional programs and hiring outside consulting firms that are constantly evaluating the program in order to spend the money. I do feel the DSM rate could be lowered and the program re-evaluated to get back to the core programs of direct client assistance through the Weatherization programs and commercial customers assistance programs.

Speaking on behalf of our LIHEAP clients, I must ask the PSC to consider the impact on the numerous low-income residents of Eastern Kentucky. Unfortunately, Eastern Kentucky is home to many individuals living on a fixed income and many of those are Senior Citizens. As you, members of the PSC, have also seen an increase in most everyday goods and services going up 1% here, 3% there, 5% there, etc..., those increases soon add up to 20% or 30% in everyday living expenses. On top of that, you add health care expenses and Medicare premiums and that income disappears very quickly. One of my staff members told me about a perfect example of this: Her mother draws Social Security. It is very minimal income and she has to clean houses in order to survive. She said they received a small cost of living from Social Security. She then got an even bigger increase in her Medicare insurance and therefore actually lost income.

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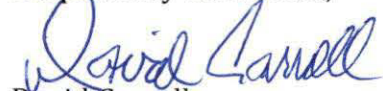
SERVING BOYD, CARTER, ELLIOTT, GREENUP AND LAWRENCE COUNTIES
WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Throughout the years, we have served thousands of clients with LIHEAP. Within the last couple of years, we have served clients like we have not seen before. Many Senior Citizens, who have very much pride and have never asked for help, are now coming in and saying that they knew they always qualified for assistance, but would not take it. Now, they say they simply cannot afford to live off the income they receive, with many drawing \$1,000 or less per month. Additionally, many working class people now come in for assistance and tell us the same story: after gas, utilities, health care and food, there is simply no money left.

This is only two examples of the many, many stories we NOW, constantly hear from our clients. Some come in literally begging for assistance when they come in for help.

Therefore, I am begging of this Commission to either completely deny this rate increase or approve a very minimal increase. This company like many others throughout the country needs to search and implement internal expense reductions first before they seek increases from the rate payers.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Carroll
Executive Director