Matthew G. Bevin

Charles G. Snavely Secretary Energy and Environment Cabinet



Commonwealth of Kentucky

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Michael J. Schmitt Chairman

> Robert Cicero Vice Chairman

Talina R. Mathews Commissioner

February 22, 2018

PARTIES OF RECORD

Re:

Case No. 2017-00321

Minutes of the Information Session and Public Meeting

Boone County High School

Florence, Kentucky February 8, 2018

Attached is a copy of the memorandum summarizing the informational session and public meeting held February 8, 2018 in Florence, Kentucky, which is being filed in the record of the above-referenced case. If you have any questions, please contact Benjamin Bellamy, Staff Attorney, at (502) 782-2584.

Sincerely,

Gwen R. Pinson

Leven R. Purson

Executive Director

BAB/kg

Attachment



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF DUKE ENERGY)	
KENTUCKY, INC. FOR: 1) AN ADJUSTMENT OF)	
THE ELECTRIC RATES; 2) APPROVAL OF AN)	
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PLAN AND)	CASE NO.
SURCHARGE MECHANISM; 3) APPROVAL OF)	2017-00321
NEW TARIFFS; 4) APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING)	
PRACTICES TO ESTABLISH REGULATORY)	
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, AND 5) ALL OTHER)	
REQUIRED APPROVALS AND RELIEF)	

MINUTES OF THE INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT BOONE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 8, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M.

An information session and public meeting was held at Boone County High School in Florence, Kentucky on February 8, 2018. Andrew Melnykovych, Director of Communications for the Public Service Commission, conducted the information session. He introduced the Commission and explained the procedure and protocol for the information session and the public meeting. Mr. Melnykovych then presented an overview of the legal basis, criteria and review process for the Commission's consideration of applications for proposed rate increases. The presentation included a general overview of the instant application, explained which aspects of this case are within the Commission's jurisdiction, and concluded with a question-and-answer session. Attendees were also told how to submit a public comment in writing if they wished to do so in addition to or in lieu of a comment at the public meeting.

At the conclusion of the information session and after a short intermission, Vice Chairman Robert Cicero, along with Chairman Michael Schmidt and Commissioner Talina Mathews, initiated the public meeting portion of the event, providing a brief overview of the case at bar and parties involved, and setting forth the procedure and protocol for the taking of comments. Vice Chairman Cicero then invited the public to make comments to the Commission regarding Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc.'s ("Duke") application for an adjustment in rates to increase annual revenue by approximately \$48.6 million. The following individuals spoke at the public meeting:

- 1. <u>Clayton Campbell</u>: Mr. Campbell lives in Union, Kentucky. He stated that Duke was already profitable and earning a reasonable rate of return on its investment. He indicated that Duke Energy's CEO received \$13 million in compensation and that Duke had \$2.1 billion in net income in 2016. He believed that was enough and that Duke did not need a rate increase at this time.
- 2. Helen Hlebiczki: Ms. Hlebiczki lives in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. She stated that the rate increase requested by Duke is "ridiculous" based on the profit that Duke is already receiving. She also had concerns about advanced meters. She understood that the Commission did not intend to revisit the implementation of the advanced meters but felt like she and other customers were not consulted about the decision to implement the advanced meters. She indicated that she would follow-up with the Commission at a later date regarding the advanced meters.
- 3. <u>Georgette Nordloh</u>: Ms. Nordloh lives in Erlanger, Kentucky. She expressed concerns about the purported cost savings from the advanced meters. She indicated that she understood that part of the purpose of the advanced meters was to

decrease labor cost and save the customers money, because Duke would no longer need meter readers. However, she heard Duke actually was not going to layoff the meter readers. She questioned what the former meter readers would be doing if they no longer had to read meters and how the advanced meters saved costs if they remained with the company. She felt that the Commission should look at why the meter readers are not out of the job.

4. Lee Ann Muse: Ms. Muse lives in Florence, Kentucky. She expressed concerns regarding recommendations by Commission staff. She indicated that it came out during the informational portion of the meeting that Commission staff will make a recommendation after they have analyzed all of the information submitted and that "judges" will then make a recommendation but that the Commissioners will ultimately make the decision. She thought those recommendations or evaluations to the Commission, including the bases for the same, should be posted on the Commission's website. She felt that doing so would be educational and would lead to increased transparency.

Ms. Muse also spoke regarding concerns about the process by which utilities request rate increases. She suggested that as the Commission is reviewing this matter that they look for or think about ways to make the process faster and more inexpensive. She was concerned about the fact that costs from storm damage that occurred in 2008 will be included in this rate case and that Duke might have carried those costs over in a way that increased the costs to customers. She believed a more efficient process might address that and similar concerns.

- 5. Rita Derington: Ms. Derington lives in Taylor Mill, Kentucky. She expressed concern about the size of the rate increase requested by Duke and stated that she did not believe it was in line with the type of raise that an individual might be expected to receive. She indicated that she had worked for a company for 30 years, but she has never received a 15% annual raise. Rather, she stated she received 2% or 3% raises. She also expressed concern about residential customers being able to pay their bill if Duke is given the rate increase requested. Ms. Derington was also concerned about the accuracy of her advanced meter and noted a significant increase in her bill following the installation of the advanced meter. She was concerned about combined effect of the increase she attributed to her advanced meter and the rate increase requested by Duke. She stated she could not stay in Kentucky and pay bills of \$400 or \$500 dollars.
- 6. Rhett Framises: Mr. Framises lives in Crestview Hills, Kentucky. He expressed concerns about the advance meters and expressed a desire for the Commission to re-open that issue. He indicated that he experienced a significant increase in his bill when Duke installed the advanced meter and stated that he spoke to a number of people in his neighborhood through a community group on Facebook who indicated they experienced similar increases after the installation of the advanced meters. He stated his current bill is higher than any other bill he has received at his current residence. He believes there is a correlation between increased bills and the installation of advanced meters. He also indicated that Duke did not inform him that it was installing the advanced meter, and now, Duke is trying to charge him to replace the advanced meter with a traditional meter. He requested that the Commission look into increased bills associated with the advanced meters as part of the rate case as he believed that Duke

would get more than the requested revenue increase from increases associated with advanced meters alone.

- 7. Janice Cushing: Ms. Cushing lives in Covington, Kentucky. She expressed concern about the effects of the requested rate increase on people who live on fixed income. She stated that people living on a fixed income may not be able to pay for electricity service at the rate requested by Duke, because they have no way of increasing their income. She noted that she is one of those people living on a fixed income and already must dip into savings to pay her bills. She indicated that a rate increase would exacerbate that issue.
- 8. Fred Caldwell: Mr. Caldwell lives in Crescent Springs, Kentucky. He expressed concerns about increased bills, privacy, and potential health problems associated with advanced meters. He indicated that the signal for the advanced meter was very powerful and was concerned that it was dangerous for that signal to be broadcast through customers' homes. He expressed a specific concern about cancer risks associated with the advanced meter signal and felt that potential health issues would result in lawsuits. He also reported a significant increase in his bill between December and January after Duke installed the advance meter.

Mr. Caldwell was also concerned about "handling fees" or "management fees." He felt those fees were going to go up significantly and encouraged customers to keep an eye on them. He expressed a concern that those fees were being used to pay or subsidize other customers' bills.

Mr. Caldwell was also concerned about which rate or bills would be used as the basis for the increase requested Duke. He reported a significant increase in his bill

between December and January after Duke installed the advance meter and expressed concern that the increase requested by Duke would be in addition to that increase. He also stated that Duke executive salaries were too high and that energy prices should be going down as a result of recent federal efforts at deregulation.

Mr. Caldwell also expressed concerns about energy choice and stated that he wanted to have his choice in electric, gas, cable, phones, etc. He was also concerned about no longer being able to use solar panels on his roof.

- 9. <u>Gary Webster</u>: Mr. Webster lives in Erlanger, Kentucky. He indicated that most of his comments had already been covered by previous speakers. He indicated that he felt the Commission should investigate increased bills associated with the installation of advanced meters.
- 10. <u>Larry Robinson</u>: Mr. Robinson lives in Cold Spring, Kentucky. He felt the Commission would not have enough facts to reach a decision, because it is unclear how the advanced meters would affect or record usage and how the new federal tax law would affect revenues. He felt that if the advanced meters record double the usage that it would affect the extent to which Duke needed an increase. With respect to the tax law, he felt that it was still unclear as to how that the IRS would implement the law such that it is currently not clear what the net effects will be on Duke. He suggested delaying any action in this matter for a year or so until those issues could be understood in more detail.
- 11. <u>Mark Hunter</u>: Mr. Hunter lives in Independence, Kentucky. He believes that the size of the increase requested by Duke is simply not acceptable and is outrageous. He stated that he worked from home and indicated that for that reason the increase would hit him especially hard due to his usage. He expressed concern about the Duke CEO's

compensation. He also stated that coal is now on the raise again, and thus, that it does not make sense that a rate increase would be necessary. He also indicated that other expenses are going up which will compound the effects of any rate increase.

12. <u>Jeannine Bell Smith</u>: Mr. Smith lives in Crescent Springs, Kentucky. She expressed concern about the advanced meters and, in particular, the \$25.00 fee that customers must pay if they wish to opt out of the advanced meters. She indicated that she would like more information regarding the opt-out provisions. She was concerned about communication between the electric advanced meters and the gas meters. She stated that the introduction of the advanced meters resulted in or corresponded with an increase in bills. She questioned whether it was permissible to place a cover on the advanced meter to protect her health. She expressed security and privacy concerns with the advanced meters associated with the collection of detailed usage data, including data regarding the times of day that energy is being used. She thinks that the Commission should revisit and do away with the advanced meters.

Ms. Smith also stated that Duke recently received a tax cut and questioned whether that would be reflected in the Commission's decision in this matter. She also expressed concern about costs associated with renewable energy projects, fines, and demand side management programs being passed on to customers. She did not believe residential customers could even afford a 2% increase in electricity rates. She noted that she is a Duke stockholder and that the stock has gone up substantially since she purchased it. She expressed concerns about federal anti-trust issues based on Duke's merger with Progress Energy and suggested looking into that issue.

- 13. <u>Jesse Brewer</u>: Mr. Brewer lives in Florence, Kentucky. He owns a number of rental properties in Duke's service territory and rents to many seniors living on a fixed income. He noted that other expenses increased in the area, including 911 fees, sanitation costs, insurance, and property taxes. He stated that as a small business owner he is going to have to pass those costs on to the senior residents to whom he rents property, but their social security and retirement is not going to go up, so he questions where the money is going to come from and how they will be able to pay.
- 14. <u>Catherine Sullivan</u>: Ms. Sullivan lives in Florence, Kentucky. She expressed concern about the size of the increase in revenue requested by Duke. She noted that most of the people in the room are on a fixed income; or work for an employer who does not give raises or only small raises. She noted that other expenses were also rising. She felt that the size of the revenue increase requested by Duke was ridiculous and that customers are not going to be able to afford it. She also questioned the amount of expenses claimed by Duke to conduct the rate case and indicated that most of the process was likely completed by computers in any case. She felt that the rate increase should be completed incrementally so customers were not hit with such a large increase at once.
- 15. Raymond Sharpe: Mr. Sharpe lives in Florence, Kentucky. He indicated that he is married to Catherine Sullivan, who also spoke against the rate increase. He stated that they have a number of other expenses, including health expenses, but that they will pay their utility bill before paying for medicine. He stated that the 17% increase requested by Duke is "putrid" and "gluttonous." He suggested that customers should be permitted to vote on the rate increase.

16. <u>Doug Massie</u>: Mr. Massie stated that he felt the recent federal tax cut should decrease Duke's costs. He identified stories in the news in which electric utilities received "rebates or cost reductions" as a result of the tax cut and decided not to seek rate increases. For instance, he stated that Duke Energy in Florida had sought to recoup hurricane costs through a rate increase but it withdrew the request for a rate increase due to savings received as a result of the tax cut. Mr. Massie indicated that the Attorney General had stated that, if anything, Duke should reduce its rates to give the tax savings to the customers.

Mr. Massie also expressed concerns about Duke's customer service. He had a tree that Duke needed to trim near a power line. He reported it to Duke but its employees were not responsive. He ultimately paid to have the tree trimmed himself. A Duke manager later apologized and said that they dropped the ball.

- 17. <u>Dara McDowell</u>: Ms. McDowell lives in Covington, Kentucky. She indicated that she understood that the Commission was sticking to the statute. However, she indicated that she is running for city commissioner and feels like if more normal people ran for office that the statute would not exist in the first place.
- 18. Mike Welling: Mr. Welling lives in Florence, Kentucky. He expressed his opinion that since coal is making a comeback that he believed Duke's fuel costs would likely decease significantly. He thought that should correspondingly lead to a decrease in rates. He expressed concern about the cost of environmental regulations coming down from Washington, DC. He expressed concerns regarding solar and wind energy projects that he did not believe would produce enough power during their useful lives to cover their

costs. He questioned when rates would start going down as a result of coal's comeback and was hopeful that coal fired plants could be brought back online.

19. <u>Gailen Bridges</u>: Mr. Bridges lives in Independence, Kentucky. He noted that Duke filed its application for a rate increase in September before anyone had an idea that the tax cut would pass in December. He stated that the reduction in the corporate tax rate should result in a 14% increase in Duke's return on equity in and of itself based on the 14% reduction in the corporate tax rate. He questioned how Duke, given the size of the tax cut, would need additional revenue to cover its costs and provide a reasonable return on equity.

Mr. Bridges also expressed concern about Duke's plan to raise the minimum fixed cost for a meter from \$5.00 to \$15.00. He stated that increase could significantly increase costs for farmers and others with multiple meters that use little energy. He explained that he had a number of barns on his farm that use no energy for most of the year but require electric service, and therefore a meter, for the limited circumstances electricity is needed at those barns. He expressed concern about how those increased fixed costs might affect farmers in similar situations, especially where they have multiple low use meters. He also noted that he owned rental property and a mobile home park, and he explained that it was often necessary to maintain a meter even on vacant properties. He explained that the increase in fixed costs would result in a significant increase to landlords because of the need to maintain a meter on vacant properties. Moreover, he argued that an increase in fixed costs would create a disincentive to conserve energy and would make it difficult for those on a budget to decrease their bill by limiting usage.

- 20. Norma Ryle: Ms. Ryle indicated that she lived in large, old farmhouse on Big Bone Rd. She heard on NPR that utility customers could expect a decrease in their rates due to the federal tax cut and was excited by the news due to the expense of heating and cooling that house. She questioned where Duke came up with a "15%" rate increase and suggested that an independent auditor review Duke's corporate balance sheets. She also thought that the Commission should look into utility company monopolies and believed that customers should be permitted to choose the company from which they purchase their energy.
- 21. Rick Dames: Mr. Dames lives in Edgewood, Kentucky. He expressed security, privacy, and health concerns associated with the advanced meters and stated that he would have opted out but the \$25.00 opt-out fee is too high. He was also concerned that the rate increase would lead to an increase in the cost of living in Duke's service territory, because businesses will increase prices as their energy costs rise. He felt residential customers would then be hit twice by the rate increase. He expressed concern that an increase in energy costs would make it less likely for companies to move to the area. He doubts Duke will get what they are asking for but noted that whatever rate increase Duke receives is going to hurt. He acknowledged that investors have a right earn a return on their investment but indicated that even a 10% rate of return is not reasonable.

Other members of the public not mentioned above indicated a desire to comment on a sign-in sheet, but they did not come forward when called by the Commission during the public meeting either because they had left the meeting before being called or decided

not to speak. After calling the names of all those who indicated a desire to speak on the sign-in sheet, Vice Chairman Cicero asked if anyone else would like the opportunity to speak. Mr. Dames, whose comments are summarized above, came forward to speak, but no other member of the public indicated a desire to speak. Vice Chairman Cicero indicated that the Commissioners could not take questions but invited the public to question Commission staff in attendance as well as representatives from the Attorney General's office and Duke after the public meeting adjourned. The public meeting was then adjourned.

All persons in attendance at the public meeting were asked, but not required, to sign in and provide their home address for the record. The sign-in sheet, totaling six pages, is attached hereto as Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX TO A PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2017-00321

Case No. 2017-00321 – Duke Energy Kentucky electric rate adjustment Florence, KY – February 8, 2018

N	lame Address	DO YOU V	
1_	I/14a Ibbott 2205 Leading Rd 45202	YES	NO
2_	Jennifer Feldhaus 3601 Alexandru RK	YES	NO
3_	DARYL CAVENTISH 300 MENDOCINO CT	YES	NO
4_	Clayfon Campbell, 7222 Beaver Rd Union (7)	YES	NO
5_	Helen Hebiczki 25/6/lemorial Pkyy, Ft. Thomas XY	YES	NO
6_	Georgette Nordloh 3657 Oxford Ct. Erlanger, KY 41019	YES	NO
7_	Ed Nordloh " " "	YES	NO
8_	LEE ANN MUSE 43 RAJEAN DRIVE, FLORENCE, KY 41	04XYES	NO
9_	Chuch Sessien 11569 Biegsen Ct Unien, Ky 41091	YES	NO
10	LINDA HURTI 706 OAK St. Ludlow, Ky 41014	YES	NO



Case No. 2017-00321 – Duke Energy Kentucky electric rate adjustment Florence, KY – February 8, 2018

Name	Address	DO YOU Y	
1 Amy	Kramer NKWD 2835 Crescent Springs Pd Erlanger, EY	YES	NO
2 RHETT		YES	NO
3 Kack	lan Spender 7242 Sentater bly alry andrew 1242	YES	NO
4 Jul	he de 1522 Beemon Jane Florera Ki	YES (NO
5	ack Heerter 6350 Fieldsteade Do Indopendence Ky	YES	NO
6 Yani	Dimmersial,	YES	NO
7 Sha	ne Doen 22 Georgeton V. FtMitchell	YES	NO
8	nette Dhe ques Cethara Lu Onzon	YES	NO
9 8	sed I Dog " gold I had	YES	NO
10 AR	LENE LUEBBE	YES	ON (

Case No. 2017-00321 – Duke Energy Kentucky electric rate adjustment Florence, KY – February 8, 2018

ľ	Name	Address	DO YOU V	
-	RITAI		TO SPEA	NO
2_	SANICE	CUSHING 3723 Jann AVC COV, Ky	YES	NO
3_	FRED CI	WLDWELL 709 BUTTERMICK PK (res. Rorings K	YES	NO
4_	GARY WEB	STER 425 HALLAM INE ERLANGER		
5_	Odon Fan	and 417 Puret of Ft. Wright Ky	YES	NO
6_	LAMPY R		-	
	Theresa Boy		1_YES	NO
	John Rees	·		and the same of th
9_	SUSAN MUL	7		
10	Lavy Me			



Case No. 2017-00321 – Duke Energy Kentucky electric rate adjustment Florence, KY – February 8, 2018

Name	Address	DO YOU V	
1 Je	annine Bell Smith	YES	NO
2 Set	h Longworth 351 Huy 491, Demossville, KY 4/033	YES	NO
3×161	DAMES 3075 ELMWOOD DR- Edgewood Ky 410	YES	NO
4 Jean	Dames 3075 Elmwood Dr Edgewood Ky 41017	YES	NO
5 Bra	ndon Booth 5009 Retenburg Rd. 41080	YES	NO
6 Ta	ra Bridgers 6565 Watson Lane Florence 41042	YES	NO
7 Cath	erine Sullivan 1517 woodsite Florence KY	YES	NO
8 Ray	not E Stree 1517 Wandside Dr F KY	YES	NO
9 //	ug f. massie 7773 Bridgeg ATE CT	YES	NO
10 Ma	pt Cocy Walter 37 caney et	YES	NO

6

PUBLIC MEETING - SIGN-IN SHEET

Case No. 2017-00321 – Duke Energy Kentucky electric rate adjustment Florence, KY – February 8, 2018

Name	Address	DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK?
1 Shannan Halin	3025 Edge Har Dr. Edo	ywood, Ky 41018 NO
2 Joan Booth	SUCT Petersburg Rd Peters	/ \
3 Jesse Bren	Wer & 14 Britten Tel.	Florence, 4 4104 XES NO
4 JUDY VITTI	TOE 6023 ETHAN BUR	LINGTON YES (NO
5 Lisa Vittito	e 5662 Limaburg Cra	eek Florence YES NO
6 KAREN BERLIET	1915 Whispering Trails UN	YES NO
7 KEN BREKE	4009 TOUR BROOK BURITHUR	alie 41005 YES (NO)
8 1 Ista (unningham	1443 Boome Aire Koad	Florence Ky 4/9ES (NO
9 Com Porsiler	2118 Wordhaven Ct, Vill	la Hills YES NO
10 Dava M& Doy	vel 720 monteln, co	ungton kg (YES) NO



Case No. 2017-00321 – Duke Energy Kentucky electric rate adjustment Florence, KY – February 8, 2018

Name	Address	DO YOU WISH
0 2 11	51001= B. 7 1 C	TO SPEAK?
1 Druce Delknap	6020 SADDLE Dr. Sentinstan	YES NO
2 Graeme C. Greorge		YES NO
3 Marie Willing		YES NO
4 While Willing		YES NO
5 JOAN MC CLUDE	4	YES NO
6 Gailen Bridges		YES NO
7 CHRIS REINERSMAN		YES NO
8 nous Rule		YES NO
9		YES NO
10		YES NO

*Adele Frisch Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. 139 East Fourth Street Cincinnati, OH 45201 *Joan M Gates VP for Legal Affairs & General Counsel NKU Administrative Center, Room 824 Highland Heights, KENTUCKY 41099

*Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. 139 East Fourth Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

*L Allyson Honaker Goss Samford, PLLC 2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite B325 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40504 *James P Henning President Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. 139 East Fourth Street Cincinnati, OH 45201 *Larry Cook Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Amy B Spiller Associate General Counsel Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. 139 East Fourth Street Cincinnati, OH 45201 *Jody Kyler Cohn Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry 36 East Seventh Street Suite 1510 Cincinnati, OHIO 45202 *E. Minna Rolfes-Adkins Paralegal Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. 139 East Fourth Street Cincinnati, OH 45201

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