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March 26, 2018

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Gwen R. Pinson  
Executive Director  
Public Service Commission  
211 Sower Boulevard P.O. Box 615  
Frankfurt, Kentucky 40602-0615

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Big Rivers Electric  
Corporation for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Case  
No. 2018-00004

Dear Ms. Pinson:

Century Aluminum of Kentucky General Partnership ("Century") files these public comments in support of the *Application of Big Rivers Electric Corporation for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct and Acquire a 345 KV Transmission Line in Hancock County, Kentucky*, P.S.C. Case No. 2018-00004 (the "Big Rivers Application"). Century is the owner and operator of an aluminum reduction plant located in Hawesville, Kentucky, near Big Rivers' Coleman Generating Station (the "Hawesville Smelter"). The Hawesville Smelter purchases electric energy and related services from Kenergy Corp., a retail electric supplier. These electric energy and related services are delivered to Century over transmission facilities that are owned by Big Rivers and under the functional control of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. which is the regional transmission operator.

Century's aluminum reduction operation in Hawesville is extremely energy-intensive and requires a constant, reliable supply of electric energy. Due to the limitations of the current transmission system that serves the Hawesville Smelter and other customers, there is a material risk that electric service to the Hawesville Smelter may be curtailed. This risk will increase as the Hawesville Smelter load returns to full production levels. The transmission system improvements proposed in the Big Rivers Application will mitigate this risk and create a more reliable environment for the long term operation of the Hawesville Smelter. The proposed new transmission line is particularly timely because of Century's recently announced plan to invest over \$100 million to modernize and restart its three idled potlines. This will result in nearly 300 direct new jobs and other related benefits to the local and state economies. For these reasons Century urges the Public Service Commission to approve the Big Rivers Application.

Sincerely,



Henk DeConing  
Plant Manager, Hawesville

CC: James M. Miller  
Tyson A. Kamuf  
Big Rivers Electric Corporation

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A Century Aluminum Company