

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF HOME)	
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS)	CASE NO.
OFFERED BY INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES)	2019-00366
PURSUANT TO KRS 278.285(4))	

ORDER

On May 26, 2020, Kentucky Power Company (Kentucky Power) filed a motion requesting clarification of portions of the Commission’s May 4, 2020 Order that required certain utilities to develop a waitlist for eligible Home Energy Assistance program (HEA) customers and limited electric utility HEA programs to eligible customers who use electric or natural gas as their primary heat source.

As a basis for its motion, Kentucky Power asserted that developing a waitlist for its Temporary Heating Assistance in Winter (THAW) program is inconsistent with the nature and purpose of that program, which provides financial assistance on an emergency basis to customers experiencing temporary economic hardships. Kentucky Power maintained it would not be reasonable to have an application period that ranks and queues eligible customers in a waitlist to receive emergency assistance for an unexpected hardship. Kentucky Power asserted that the prioritization criteria for the THAW program, which does not contain a waitlist provision, was developed by Community Action Kentucky (CAK) and approved by the Commission in Case No. 2019-00245.¹ For the above reasons,

¹ Case No. 2019-00245, *Electronic application of Kentucky Power Company to: 1) Modify Kentucky Power Company’s Residential Energy Assistance Program; 2) Approve the Amended Operating Agreement; and 3) Grant All Other Relief To Which It May Be Entitled* (Ky. PSC Sept. 11, 2019).

Kentucky Power requested that the Commission clarify its May 4, 2020 Order to exempt the THAW program from a waitlist requirement.

Additionally, Kentucky Power requested that the Commission exempt Kentucky Power from a requirement that limits benefits from its Home Energy Assistance in Reduced Temperatures (HEART) and its THAW programs to customers who use electric and natural gas as their primary fuel source for heat. Kentucky Power explained that many of its customers who are otherwise eligible under HEART and THAW rely on fuel sources other than electricity or natural gas as their primary source of heat. Kentucky Power further explained that customers' heating systems that use propane, fuel oil, coal, and wood as the primary fuel source often require electric service to operate blowers or other components. Kentucky Power explained that, because of the wide diversity of fuel sources used by its customers, it does not limit HEART and THAW benefits to customers who use electric or natural gas as their primary source of heat.

Having reviewed the motion and being otherwise sufficient advised, the Commission finds that Kentucky Power established good cause to grant its motion, and that the Commission's May 4, 2020 Order should be clarified that Kentucky Power's THAW program is not subject to a waitlist requirement and its HEART and THAW programs are not limited to customers who use electric or natural gas as their primary source of heat. The Commission agrees that, given the emergency nature of the THAW program, it would not be reasonable or beneficial to require that Kentucky Power implement a waitlist for the THAW program. The Commission further finds that it would not be reasonable to limit assistance under the HEART or THAW programs to otherwise

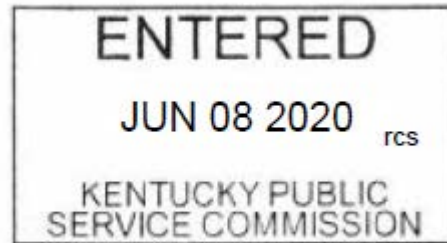
eligible customers who use a fuel source other than electric or natural gas as their primary heat source.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Kentucky Power's motion for clarification is granted.
2. Kentucky Power's THAW program is exempt from the requirement in the May 4, 2020 Order to establish a waitlist of eligible customers.
3. Kentucky Power is authorized to provide HEART and THAW benefits to otherwise eligible customers who receive electric service from Kentucky Power, but do not use electric or natural gas as their primary source of heat.

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By the Commission



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname, positioned above a horizontal line.

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