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5 May 2020

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Kentucky Public Service Commission
611 Sower Blvd
Frankfort, KY 40602
Delivered by e-mail psc.info@ky.gov

Re: Public comment in Case number 2020-00110

Dear Commissioners:

This case seeks the expansion of indebtedness of Louisville Gas and Electric Company related to the impacts of COVID-19. As part of any decision in this case the Kentucky Public Service Commission should require that all information on customers be kept in a manner retrievable using census tracts, census blocks and be completely compatible with the way census data is organized for use.

As recently as 2017, LG&E was only able to supply data on customers at a zip code level. This is in the 21st century where research is normally conducted compatibly with census data organization, such as census tracts and census blocks. Despite requests from the Metropolitan Housing Coalition for data to be used at the census tract level, this data has not been available to compare with the rich amount of information kept by the Census Bureau. This is despite the desire of LG&E to advance information gathering on their customers. What a hindrance to good planning this must be for LG&E.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission should support the United States Census and the American Community Survey (ACS) of the US Census Bureau. The Census is mandated in Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution. The role of the census and the ACS is for planning. Certainly we have heard every Kentucky governor support filling out the census and we know that is how funds are allocated by the federal government. It is about planning and operating government and major systems, not just government.

Yet one of the most sophisticated and important systems in planning and operating our city is recalcitrant in ensuring that their data is compatible with the census break downs. There is a reason they are regulated by the state and it is incumbent on the PSC to stand up for the Census and support the way we get and use data.

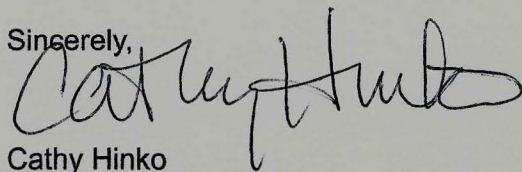
In granting anything to do with COVID-19's economic impact, it is imperative that you, the PSC, and researchers be able to track what is happening at least at a census tract level (if not census block). Where are delinquencies? Where will shut-offs occur when the moratorium ends. Where are there payment plans? We need this and more for proper allocation of resources. All local government plans at census tract levels and while we have special allocations from the government and the good people of Louisville donating their dollars into both local and state funds to help people pay utilities, we need to be able to sync up the utility data with all the other data.

Failure to have information in 2020 by census tract is a VERY surprising information deficit of LG&E. No matter the reason, the time for opacity is over. The time to clearly support our state and local government's efforts to have good information at the census level is here.

Do not turn your back on the United States Constitution , on state and local need for integrated information for planning. Require that LG&E keep the data in a manner compatible with supplying information at the census levels in use by the United States Census Bureau. Set up rules for the public, government and researchers to access that information without having to file a case with the PSC.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cathy Hinko

Executive Director

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