

Public Service Commission  
211 Sower Blvd.  
P.O. Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

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10/29/20

RE: Case Number 2020-00174

I am writing to express my thoughts as a ratepayer on the proposed rate and other changes Kentucky Power has recently brought before the Public Service Commission, in case no. 2020-00174.

Kentucky Power has made a series of terrible business decisions, such as blindly investing in coal, and now they want me and other customers (households who have no other choice for electricity) to bail them out.

Kentucky Power's service area is not only the poorest region in Kentucky, but one of the poorest areas in the entire country, and they want to increase our electric power rates? If that wasn't enough, they want to destroy the financial viability of any investment our households and businesses want to make in solar power, which would reduce our energy costs (hey, we are struggling financially too) not to mention reduce fossil fuel consumption that destroys our eastern Kentucky mountains while contributing significantly to global warming and climate change.

As a Kentucky Power customer, I support these four points that have been made by a number of intervenors in this case:

1. Kentucky Power's net metering proposal punishes prospective rooftop solar customers. The "netting periods" Kentucky Power has proposed are arbitrary and seem designed specifically to give rooftop solar customer generators the worst deal. Any net metering rate for grid-tied solar customers must be grounded in a careful evaluation of the costs AND the benefits that rooftop solar brings to the utility. Kentucky Power's proposal does the opposite.
2. By increasing both the fixed charge and the energy charge of residential bills by 25%, Kentucky Power would be imposing a huge financial impact on eastern Kentucky households already struggling to make ends meet, in the middle of a pandemic. Although their offer of bill forgiveness on accounts more than 30 days late on May 28 is a step in the right direction, the actual rates that Kentucky Power has proposed are neither just, nor fair, to ratepayers like me.
3. I strongly oppose the declining block rate, as it disincentivizes energy efficiency, and punishes low-energy households. Only customers who use a lot of electricity in the winter will be better off under the declining block rate – and just for those three months. But customers who have invested in efficiency, have small homes, or try to conserve energy, will be worse off. And the other 9 months out of the year, all of us will pay more, no matter what. Kentucky Power claims to be helping out

low-income customers with their proposed declining block rate—but the best way to help us out would be to not increase our rates at all.

4. Kentucky Power has not adequately proved that their plan to universally deploy advanced metering infrastructure is of sufficient value to residential ratepayers to warrant the \$36 million investment. I oppose the universal implementation of smart meters, particularly if they would be used as an excuse to rack up Kentucky Power's profits and further devalue rooftop solar energy in the future.

Please use your regulatory authority to reign in Kentucky Power's rate proposal, which would hurt ratepayers like me in the middle of a global pandemic and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amelia Pickering".

Amelia Pickering  
14 Church Street  
Whitesburg, KY 41858

CC: Office of Rate Intervention, 700 Capitol Ave, Suite 20, Frankfort, KY 40601