

From: Colby Hall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 04:12 PM
To: PSC Comments
Subject: 2022-00402 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company

RE: PSC Case Number 2022-00402

Dear Commissioners:

Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), a 501c3 nonprofit serving 54 Appalachian counties in Eastern Kentucky, writes to the Public Service Commission in support of Rye Development's efforts to build a pump storage facility in Bell County, KY on an abandoned coal mining site.

SOAR was founded in the fall of 2013 with a mission focused on economic revitalization in Eastern Kentucky following the collapse of the coal industry. SOAR provides local communities with long-term vision and outside-the-box solutions to help spark positive outcomes during economic transition.

For generations Eastern Kentucky has been the power source for the rest of the country through the availability of reliable and cost-effective coal. With America's shift away from fossil fuels, it will take something else for Eastern Kentucky to retain its place.

As the country's energy grid continues to shift towards renewable sources of energy like solar and wind, it must have ways to store excess energy produced. At the same time, as the EV and battery industry grows in Kentucky, they too will need more storage capacity.

Rye Development's Lewis Ridge project will help solve both of those issues and keep homegrown energy production located in Eastern Kentucky. America cannot achieve energy independence with a grid more dependent on renewable sources without pump storage projects. And Rye Development's Lewis Ridge project is being built right in the heart of Eastern Kentucky in a severely distressed county.

This will be a \$1 billion+ investment in Bell County creating thousands of construction jobs and dozens of permanent positions. At the same time, Rye Development can meet the needs of KU and LG&E through domestically sourced electricity. Therefore, everyone will win when the Lewis Ridge project is completed and comes online. Please evaluate KU and LG&E's proposal and make sure they have selected the best plan possible.

If you need anything else, don't hesitate to call or email me at the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Colby Hall
Executive Director
Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)
[REDACTED]

From: MICHAEL GAMBREL [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2023 12:14 PM
To: PSC Comments
Subject: 2022-00402 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company

The Demand Side Management Plan submitted by LGE/KU fails to consider a planned pumped storage facility being permitted and designed on a former strip mine site in Bell County, Kentucky. It is located on private property owned by Asher Land and Mineral, LLLP in Pineville, Kentucky, a plus 100 year old company. The project name is Lewis Ridge Pumped Storage by Rye Development. There has been a FERC preliminary permit approved on 3-3-2022 and a public hearing held on January 25, 2023. The site is within 2.3 miles of an existing KU high voltage line (161 KV) that runs across Pine Mountain and US Highway 119 near the communities of Balkan and Calloway. This is planned to be a 287 MW pumped storage hydroelectric facility with construction to begin in 2029, or after all required permits are obtained. This facility can provide power on a more reliable basis than the proposed solar facilities. Many construction jobs will be created during the building of the facility along with permanent jobs in an area long dependent on coal mining. This county needs every job it can create. For example, Flash Steelworks broke ground in October, 2022 to construct a plant in Bell County to produce military grade plate steel and this plant will consume additional power in the area. As we all know, coal is being phased out by all utilities and being replaced with other sources. This pumped storage facility will provide reliable and dependable power generation for its planned plus 50 year service life with low environmental impacts. The LGE/KU plan needs to consider this pumped storage facility along with its other planned facilities. Three of those are currently planned for completion in 2027 and one other in 2028 (Brown NGCC). There is adequate time for LGE/KU to consider this facility in their long term planning. I am requesting that the PSC require LGE/KU to consider this facility and place it in their portfolio of future power generating sources. Thank you, Michael Gambrel, P.E.

Respectfully,
MICHAEL GAMBREL
3450 Hwy. 987, Laurel Hill
Pineville
KY
40977
[REDACTED]

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00402 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 12:57:00 PM

Case No. 2022-00402

Thank you for your comments on the application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2022-00402, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2022-00402 \(ky.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: KY Public Service Commission Public Comments <psc.comment@ky.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:13 PM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00402 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company

Public Comments for Case 2022-00402 submitted by [REDACTED] on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 4:12 PM

Name: Colby Hall

Address: 137 Main Street, Suite 300

City: Pikeville

State: KY

Zip Code: 41501

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]

Home phone:

Comments: RE: PSC Case Number 2022-00402 Dear Commissioners: Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), a 501c3 nonprofit serving 54 Appalachian counties in Eastern Kentucky, writes to the Public Service Commission in support of Rye Development's efforts to build a pump storage facility in Bell County, KY on an abandoned coal mining site. SOAR was founded in the fall of 2013 with a mission focused on economic revitalization in Eastern Kentucky following the collapse of the coal industry. SOAR provides local communities with long-term vision and outside-the-box solutions to help spark positive outcomes during economic transition. For generations Eastern Kentucky has been the power source for the rest of the country through the availability of reliable and cost-effective coal. With America's shift away from fossil fuels, it will take something else for Eastern Kentucky to retain its place. As the country's energy grid continues to shift towards renewable sources of energy like solar and wind, it must have ways to store excess energy produced. At the same time, as the EV and battery industry grows in Kentucky, they too will need more storage capacity. Rye Development's Lewis Ridge project will help solve both of those issues and keep homegrown energy production located in Eastern Kentucky. America cannot achieve energy

independence with a grid more dependent on renewable sources without pump storage projects. And Rye Development's Lewis Ridge project is being built right in the heart of Eastern Kentucky in a severely distressed county. This will be a \$1 billion+ investment in Bell County creating thousands of construction jobs and dozens of permanent positions. At the same time, Rye Development can meet the needs of KU and LG&E through domestically sourced electricity. Therefore, everyone will win when the Lewis Ridge project is completed and comes online. Please evaluate KU and LG&E's proposal and make sure they have selected the best plan possible. If you need anything else, don't hesitate to call or email me at the contact information below. Sincerely, Colby Hall Executive Director Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) [REDACTED]

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00402 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 12:57:00 PM

Case No. 2022-00402

Thank you for your comments on the application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2022-00402, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2022-00402 \(ky.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: KY Public Service Commission Public Comments <psc.comment@ky.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 12:15 PM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00402 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company

Public Comments for Case 2022-00402 submitted by [REDACTED] on Friday, April 7, 2023 at 12:14 PM

Name: MICHAEL GAMBREL

Address: 3450 Hwy. 987, Laurel Hill

City: Pineville

State: KY

Zip Code: 40977

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]

Home phone:

Comments: The Demand Side Management Plan submitted by LGE/KU fails to consider a planned pumped storage facility being permitted and designed on a former strip mine site in Bell County, Kentucky. It is located on private property owned by Asher Land and Mineral, LLLP in Pineville, Kentucky, a plus 100 year old company. The project name is Lewis Ridge Pumped Storage by Rye Development. There has been a FERC preliminary permit approved on 3-3-2022 and a public hearing held on January 25, 2023. The site is within 2.3 miles of an existing KU high voltage line (161 KV) that runs across Pine Mountain and US Highway 119 near the communities of Balkan and Calloway. This is planned to be a 287 MW pumped storage hydroelectric facility with construction to begin in 2029, or after all required permits are obtained. This facility can provide power on a more reliable basis than the proposed solar facilities. Many construction jobs will be created during the building of the facility along with permanent jobs in an area long dependent on coal mining. This county needs every job it can create. For example, Flash Steelworks broke ground in October, 2022 to construct a plant in Bell County to produce military grade plate steel and this plant will consume additional power in the area. As we all know, coal is being phased out by all utilities and being replaced with

other sources. This pumped storage facility will provide reliable and dependable power generation for its planned plus 50 year service life with low environmental impacts. The LGE/KU plan needs to consider this pumped storage facility along with its other planned facilities. Three of those are currently planned for completion in 2027 and one other in 2028 (Brown NGCC). There is adequate time for LGE/KU to consider this facility in their long term planning. I am requesting that the PSC require LGE/KU to consider this facility and place it in their portfolio of future power generating sources. Thank you, Michael Gambrel, P.E.
