

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00402 - Kentucky Utilities Company , Louisville Gas and Electric Company
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 3:11:00 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, July 27, 2023 10:06 AM
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, July 27, 2023 at 10:06 AM

Name: Sharon Leightty
Address: 2308 Fallsview Rd
City: Louisville
State: KY
Zip Code: 40207

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]

Home phone:

Comments: I am TOTALLY in favor of transitioning as quickly as possible to a low carbon method of generating electricity. I urge you to retire coal generated power plants as quickly as possible. When building solar, I would urge you to use the solar panels as a cover for something useful below (building, parking, etc.) rather than simply covering an oxygen generating field with the panels.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: KY Public Service Commission Public Comments <psc.comment@ky.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 8:28 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 Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 8:28 PM

Name: Scott Taylor
Address: 1034 Cooper Drive
City: Lexington
State: KY
Zip Code: 40502
Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]
Home phone: [REDACTED]

Comments: I absolutely support KU's new energy plan. It is high time that Kentucky moved toward less expensive sources of energy. In addition, these new sources of energy will be less carbon emitting.

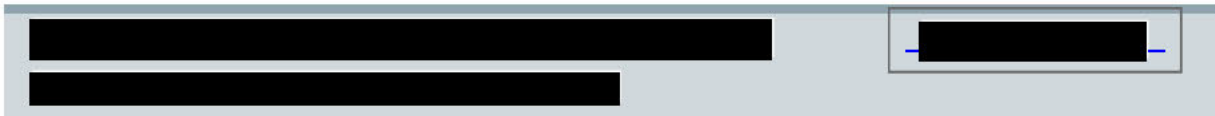
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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: Cathy Hinko [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:54 PM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>; PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Cc: cathy Hinko ·
Subject: Case No. 2022-00402



Original Message Attached

Comments of Cathy Hinko
1941 Payne Street, #1
Louisville, KY 40206
Case No. 2022-00402
July 15, 2023

I am a resident of Jefferson County, living with the climatic impacts of LG&E's energy production, a consumer of LG&E and a shareholder in PPL. In each of these roles, I oppose the proposal for two gas-fired power plants and all ancillary activity.

My comments are on the proposed actions in Case 2022-00402 which include

Retiring 3 coal plants, totaling almost 1,500MW capacity;
Building or purchasing 6 solar arrays totaling 877MW capacity;
Building 2 new gas turbines, one in Jefferson and the other in Mercer totaling 1,242MW capacity;
Adding 1 battery storage system of 125MW capacity, 4-hour 500MWh of generation.
<https://psc.ky.gov/pscecf/2022-00402/rick.lovekamp%40lge-ku.com/12152022012325/04-KU LGE Joint Application 2022-00402.pdf>

The question that needs to be confronted is: **if we had a half billion dollars to plan for responsible energy production and demand side management to meet our needs over the next fifty years and keep our Commonwealth safe, is what LG&E-KU proposes the best, most economical, environmentally responsible and reliable proposal with guarantees over the cost of fossil fuel year after year?** After all, it is MY money that will pay for this to be built and to pay for natural gas. It is easy for LG&E-KU to be profligate and short sighted, in fact it is in the best interest of PPL to be profligate and short-sighted. But it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that we who pay for and live with these activities are guarded.

First, I ask you to have a public comment session in Louisville. This case is both tremendously costly to consumers and environmentally costly to all who live in this area. The least the PSC can do is to make public access to comment as easy as possible. The pandemic proved how many households are not as savvy or even connected or able to afford connection by the internet.- ask Jefferson County Public Schools how many students needed connection. These are the very households who will be most deleteriously affected by the actions proposed in this case. I remind the PSC, that actions that have a significantly worse effect on minorities become an issue for your consideration. It is the areas of segregated Louisville with high minority concentrations that have the least internet connectivity.

I will divide my more detailed comments into sections:

1. Cost-including the cost of a bad investment
2. Environmental impact and alternatives
3. Public good including homeland security
4. Racism
5. Data and transparency and failure to adhere to Kentucky law

1. Cost- including the cost of a bad investment

Kentucky has not escaped climatic disasters. We need to generate fossil-fuel-free electricity in this decade. Solar power, is the short term obvious choice. LGE-KU can do better than building sites that produce just 877MW proposed in this case. Building solar sites to produce at least 4,200MW by the end of this decade can reduce greenhouse gases without curtailing solar generation or additional battery storage. Doing so would initiate the planning and developing of the distributed grid critical for the future. Of course, battery storage will allow additional increase in capacity and the existing gas turbines LGE-KU already operates can supplement nightly and cloudy demand. With increased solar generation there should be a decrease in gas turbine use and increase in their longevity.

If increasing solar is not feasible for LGE-KU, the PSC should reconsider the value of net metering before approving the 2 new NGCCs. The personal and financial costs of the recent Eastern KY flooding, Western Ky tornadoes, and this most recent windstorm, warrants a reevaluation of the net metering rules. The 1:1 rule should be restored to encourage more private solar development, and the 1% statewide limit on renewables should be removed. Kentucky needs to catch on and catch up with more renewables.

You have received comments which show that in this decade LGE-KU could generate five times the solar electricity it plans to generate in case 2022-00402, without curtailment or additional battery storage.

In 2022, Kentucky ranked last among the 50 states in renewable solar/wind generation with less than 1% (51GWh) of the state's total, ahead of only the District of Columbia. https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09032023/inside-clean-energy-texas-renewables/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=5d29429c3d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_03_11_02_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-5d29429c3d-328706794

PSC MUST WEIGH AN INCREASE IN SOLAR GENERATION BEFORE APPROVING THE GAS TURBINES. PPL's own data shows its subsidiaries, LGE-KU, can increase solar by 2027 to 4,200MW of renewable capacity with no increase in battery storage and little curtailment. PPL's "Generation Study 2022 – Addendum to 2021 Climate Assessment Report". We should invest in increasing solar power from 877MW to 4,200MW in this decade, increases LGE-KU's proposed annual solar electric generation in Kentucky from 1.0TWh to 5.0TWh, respectively. We should increase LGE-KU's annual solar electric generation in Kentucky by 15%, and in Jefferson County by 41% of their respective 2021 totals.

Will this be a case of "stranded assets" long before we finish paying for it or require yet another huge cost to ratepayers to update what is obviously a form of generation that will be barred? In fact, did LG&E hustle this through- I remind you that they did not include this in the Integrated Resource Plan- so they could "grandfather" in use of fossil fuels? After all, it seems they woke up one morning and filed this after NEVER having raised it in all the proceeding DSM meetings or the IRP.

How does PPL plan to make use of Federal incentives to transition away from fossil fuels in Kentucky?

Which Federal incentives is PPL planning to take advantage of in its transition from fossil fuels to net zero emissions in Kentucky?

Will Kentucky's chances to get competitive grants for responsible energy be diminished because we are going to create/update fossil fuel consumption?

2. Environmental impact and alternatives

As these comments are being finalized, Kentuckians have experienced a windstorm, leaving over 400,000 customers – family homes, churches, and businesses - without power. This storm was preceded two days earlier, March 1, by a temperature of 79F. This is the third major storm Kentucky has experienced in less than a year and a half. Kentucky has long been the meeting point for northwest and southwest winds. A warming climate is making these storms in our state more violent and frequent. While much credit must be given to Kentucky's utility workers for their hard work in restoring service, the utility executives who are deciding Kentucky's energy future, must take their share of responsibility for the increasing intensity of these storms.

A recent IPCC report, summarized by NRDC, notes that more than a dozen natural systems—from ice sheets to the Amazon rainforest—are at risk of “tipping.” <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/climate-tipping-points-are-closer-once-thought>

A more recent, March 20, IPCC report states, “There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all (*very high confidence*).”

3. Homeland Security and resilience

I posit that it is in our national security interests to have widespread solar-powered homes. This makes us more resistant to failures of the grid, hacking and bizarre climate events. There are clear examples of how redundancy in generating power through, for instance, roof-top solar would have contributed to an area’s resilience in the face of one of these events.

4. Racism

LG&E has already closed offices in Louisville. Apparently even they do not want to live in the environment they are creating. However, the immediate impact is felt in low-income neighborhoods and, as you must know from prior cases, Louisville had significantly intense areas of Black low income neighborhoods. In person Customer Service is detailed and needed

These low-income Black areas already over-pay for electricity. As LG&E snookered the PSC into transferring costs into the daily service charge. Black low-income neighborhoods use less electricity per household than affluent White neighborhoods and Black low-income households live in very dense areas with thousands of households per mile (and a fee for every household) compared to very low density White affluent neighborhoods. The difference between those living in multi-family housing or single-family housing is racial and affects how many daily fees for one plot of land. Even the recent wind storms showed power failure at a higher rate for White affluent neighborhoods (who have a high rate of tree canopy). So, servicing in catastrophic events has been higher in these affluent neighborhoods. But the Black low-income households subsidize the lower per kWh and servicing.

Now LG&E proposes spending huge amounts of money partially to expand their service area and are going to place an undue burden on low income people. While the WeCare program is great (and paid for by ratepayers, so no thanks to LG&E

shareholders), imagine the further conservation in these neighborhoods if several million was invested in updating the housing in these areas?

Whatever happened to Demand Side Management?

5. Data and transparency and failure to adhere to Kentucky law

LG&E pretends they are too stupid to be able to give data by census tracts. But every planning process in government uses census tracts. This is a significant impediment to good government planning.

I posit that it would expose the racism of LG&E's policies. In any event, we need to know all information by census tract.

Louisville government has enacted policies with numeric goals to reduce dependence of fossil fuels. International goals also exist to which the United States of America subscribes. Yet LG&E cannot be bothered even taking time to be dismissive of them, much less address these goals.

LG&E did not adhere to Kentucky Law that requires a Demand Side Management, K.R.S. 278.285.

I sat on the DSM committee for an interminable number of years and up until this case was filed, there was no mention of needing this significant increase. No discussion of DSM involved huge efforts and funding to curtail usage. In fact, LG&E portrayed the situation as being well under control. Their "story" was that they could cut back on DSM because appliances were so much more efficient. No discussion of a huge need for increased fossil fuel production was ever on the table. This appears to be deliberately misleading and a breach of public trust.

LG&E failed to follow the law and its actions were unreasonable, scurrilous and deleterious to ratepayers.

1. Whether a utility's proposed demand-side management programs are consistent with its most recent long-range integrated resource plan;
2. (e) Whether the plan results in any unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage to any class of customers;
3. (f) The extent to which customer representatives and the Office of the Attorney General have been involved in developing the plan, including program design, cost recovery

mechanisms, and financial incentives, and if involved, the amount of support for the plan by each participant, provided however, that unanimity among the participants developing the plan shall not be required for the commission to approve the plan

LG&E did not adhere to Kentucky Law that requires an Intergrated Resource Plan, K.R.S. 287.285.

LG&E handed in an IRP that did not include any hint of a momentous, significant and budget breaking need for what this case proposes. The IRP was inadequate in and of itself, but this omission appears to be deliberate, unreasonable, scurrilous and a breach of public trust. LG&E failed to fulfill its requirements. No reward should be given to LG&E for misleading the PSC and the public.

LG&E's actions show that they have not acted in good faith and this case should be denied at this time. LG&E should be held to a greater public exploration of what we ratepayers want and need, what alternatives are available and better.

This case should be denied. Short of denial, table the case and require LG&E to have public hearings on a revised IRP and DSM meetings.