

Ken Shapero

5604 Wolf Pen Trace

Prospect, KY 40059

September 21, 2023

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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Commissioners Chandler, Hatton and Regan
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

RE: Case 2020-00402

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Ken Shapero. I am an electric and natural-gas customer of LG&E-KU who resides at 5604 Wolf Pen Trace in Jefferson County, Kentucky. I'm writing today to object to LG&E's proposal to build two new natural gas-powered generating stations whose useful lives may span 50 years or more. At a time in our history when unprecedented global warming threatens our very existence on earth, for LG&E to seek rates and authority for facilities that will prolong our over-reliance on the combustion of fossil fuels, with their associated deposit of greenhouse-gas emissions into our atmosphere, is beyond the pale.

Because LG&E-KU is a public utility, granted monopoly status to serve the public good, there is ample cause to take a step back and pause in light of this unprecedented and highly controversial request. We need to consider whether we and our children and grandchildren should be forced today to underwrite an investment of \$1.2 billion in fossil-fuel powered electric generating stations when cleaner, safer and less-harmful options have not been fully explored.

While I'm certain that LG&E will bring forward a bevy of highly educated, experienced "experts" to support their case, I'm equally certain that LG&E has done little or nothing to solicit input, ideas, proposals or sought other collaborative means to accomplish the public goals of providing safe, reliable electric power for the long term. If they have, they certainly haven't communicated it to the public.

In fact, had it not been for one or two news articles, and conversations with friends in the know, I would have been unaware of this momentous decision LG&E proposes to make on the public's behalf. I have to state in the clearest and most forceful way possible that this is completely unacceptable.

At a time when our planet is at risk, and after a summer of devastating wildfires, floods, weather disasters and the hottest recorded temperatures in history, how is it possible that LG&E expects to move forward without a truly robust and candid public discussion with all those who derive electric power from them? As our public electric utility, LG&E has received the privilege of serving as our monopoly sole provider. It boggles the imagination that this proposal has gotten as far as it has with such little scrutiny or public discourse. Under the circumstances, I suggest that most LG&E-KU customers would have expected much, much, more.

Therefore, I urge you in the strongest possible way to delay and defer a decision on case until such time as there has been ample opportunity for more public input, for competing plans to be devised and

weighed, and for LG&E to provide clear evidence that they have explored every other possible solution that would benefit all of their stakeholders, and not just the stockholders of its owner, PPL Corporation.

While I agree that it will be necessary to continue relying on fossil fuels such as natural gas as a short-term bridging solution, I reject out-of-hand LG&E's argument the best available solution is to spend \$1.2 billion on two natural gas-fired electric plants that will be online for fifty years or more. It strains credulity to believe this is a sincere and honest proposal.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you table LG&E's requested rate hike for as long as it takes to have meaningful and inclusive public discourse and realistic comparative analyses of competing proposals. Only in this way can we the public be satisfied that our public utility has arrived at the best, most sustainable way to meet the future electrical power needs of all its stakeholders, and not just satisfied the pecuniary desires of a simple majority of PPL Corporation stockholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Shapero", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ken Shapero