

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF SOUTH)	
KENTUCKY R.E.C.C. FOR APPROVAL OF A)	
REVISED BILL FORMAT AND RELATED TARIFF)	CASE NO.
REVISIONS AND FOR APPROVAL OF A)	2023-00071
SHORTENED NOTICE PERIOD PURSUANT TO)	
KRS 278.180(1))	

ORDER

On February 16, 2023, South Kentucky R.E.C.C. (South Kentucky RECC) filed, through the Commission’s electronic Tariff Filing System, a revised bill format along with related revisions to its tariff. The revisions to the tariff would change the name of the “consumer charge” to “availability charge”. South Kentucky RECC proposed an effective date of March 8, 2023, and requested a deviation from the 30-day notice requirement in KRS 278.180. On February 17, 2023, South Kentucky RECC responded to one request for information from Commission Staff, a copy of which is attached as an Appendix to this Order.

LEGAL STANDARD

No change in rates shall be made by a utility except upon 30 days’ notice. The Commission may, based upon good cause shown, shorten the notice period from 30 days to a period not less than 20 days.¹

A utility’s bill format must clearly show the following information: (1) the date the bill was issued; (2) class of service; (3) present and last preceding meter readings; (4)

¹ KRS 278.180(1).

date of the present reading; (5) number of units consumed; (6) meter constant, if applicable; (7) net amount for service rendered; (8) all taxes; (9) adjustments, if applicable; (10) the gross amount of the bill; (11) the date after which a penalty may apply to the gross amount; and (12) if the bill is estimated or calculated.²

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Commission finds that South Kentucky RECC's request for a shortened notice period should be approved and the revised bill format, with the exception of changing the name of the "consumer charge" to "availability charge", should be approved effective March 8, 2023, for the reasons below. Further, the Commission finds that the change of the name of the "consumer charge" to "availability charge" should be denied for the reasons below.

South Kentucky RECC stated that the final changes to its bill format were made on February 10, 2023. At that time, the bill format was sent to South Kentucky RECC staff to ensure that all of the required information was contained in the new bill format. Counsel was contacted and retained on February 14, 2023, and the information necessary to make the filing was provided to counsel on February 15, 2023. Therefore, February 16, 2023, was the earliest the filing could have been made with the Commission. South Kentucky RECC's plan was to begin sending the new bills to customers beginning March 8, 2023. As the filing was made on February 16, 2023, the proposed effective date falls within the period of time in which the Commission can grant a shortened notice period under KRS 278.180(1).

² 807 KAR 5:006, Section 7(1)(a).

The revised bill format contains all of the information required by 807 KAR 5:006, Section 7(1)(a) and is more transparent to customers because it separately lists the consumer charge and energy charge instead of consolidating them into one amount, as in the current bill format. The revised bill format also provides customers with temperature information for the past 12 months and provides more information regarding a customer's energy usage and how it compares to previous periods.

South Kentucky RECC did not provide any reasoning for changing the name of the "consumer charge" to "availability charge". While the Commission recognizes South Kentucky RECC's efforts to update its bill format to be more transparent and provide customers with additional information, changing the name of the "consumer charge" to "availability charge" is likely to lead to customer confusion and additional work for South Kentucky RECC and Commission Staff as customers are likely to contact both if they have questions about the "availability charge". A review of South Kentucky RECC's cancelled tariff pages on file with the Commission shows that the term "consumer charge" has been present in South Kentucky RECC's tariff since 1982, thus that is a term that would be familiar to a customer.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. South Kentucky RECC's request for a shortened notice period is approved.
2. South Kentucky RECC's proposed tariff revisions changing the name of the "consumer charge" to "availability charge" are rejected.
3. South Kentucky RECC's revised bill format, with the exception of changing the name "consumer charge" to "availability charge", is approved effective March 8, 2023.

4. Within 20 days of the date of service of this Order, South Kentucky RECC shall file with the Commission, using the Commission's electronic Tariff Filing System, its revised bill format reflecting that it was approved pursuant to this Order.

5. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

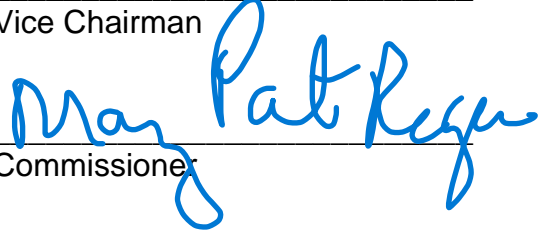
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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

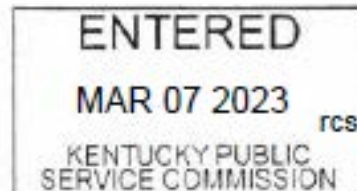


Chairman

Vice Chairman



Commissioner



ATTEST:



Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2023-00071 DATED MAR 07 2023

THREE PAGES TO FOLLOW

Hinton, Daniel E (PSC)

From: Allyson Honaker <allyson@hloky.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Hinton, Daniel E (PSC)
Cc: Rogness, Benjamin (PSC)
Subject: RE: KY-PSC Electronic Filing Center NotificationTFS2023-00095

This Message Originated from Outside the Organization

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[Report Suspicious](#)

Mr. Hinton,

South Kentucky RECC was still finalizing the bill format with the new software vendor last week. The final changes to the bill format were made on Friday, February 10, 2023. The final bill format was then sent to South Kentucky RECC staff to review and to insure that all of the required information was contained in the new bill format. Counsel was contacted and retained on February 14, 2023 to assist in preparing and filing this tariff filing. The information was provided to counsel on February 15, 2023 to begin drafting revised tariff pages, the motion for deviation and other necessary items to include in the filing. The tariff filing was made on February 16, 2023.

South Kentucky RECC acted as expeditiously as possible in making the tariff filing. Since the final bill format was not finalized with the billing software vendor until Friday February 10, 2023, and it took some time for Staff to confirm that the new format contained all of the information required, the filing could not have been made before February 16, 2023. South Kentucky RECC rushed to get the tariff filing prepared in order to provide at least twenty days' notice to the Commission.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thank you,
Allyson



L. Allyson Honaker

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From: Hinton, Daniel E (PSC) <dehinton@ky.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 7:44 AM
To: Allyson Honaker <allyson@hloky.com>
Cc: Rogness, Benjamin (PSC) <benjamin.rogness@ky.gov>
Subject: RE: KY-PSC Electronic Filing Center NotificationTFS2023-00095

Ms. Honaker,

Was there a reason that the revised tariff pages and bill format could not have been filed prior to February 16?

Thanks.

Daniel

From: KY Public Service Commission <psc.tariffs@ky.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:04:52 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: allyson@hloky.com <allyson@hloky.com>
Cc: PSC Tariffs <psc.tariffs@ky.gov>
Subject: KY-PSC Electronic Filing Center NotificationTFS2023-00095

This notification has been sent to you regarding your recent Tariff filing : TFS2023-00095 file(s) have been transmitted successfully.

Documents received for Tariff filing: TFS2023-00095 for South Kentucky R.E.C.C.
2/16/2023 4:04:47 PM

File Summary:

File Name: Read_1st.pdf

Description: Cover Letter

File Name: Motion_for_Deviation_-_Final_-_230215.pdf

Description: Petition

File Name: Complete_Clean_Tariff.pdf

Description: Tariff

File Name: Complete_Strike-Through_Tariff_Pages.pdf

Description: Support Document

File Name: Complete_Notices.pdf

Description: Support Document

Thank you.

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