

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Liberty-Casey Chamber](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Support for EKPC's Liberty Station  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 8:56:00 AM

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Case No. 2024-00310

Thank you for your comments on the application of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.. 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, 2024-00310, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2024-00310 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Liberty-Casey Chamber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:08 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for EKPC's Liberty Station

I submitted this letter of support on 3/16/25 but had an error in the email address. I was in attendance on the 3/17/25 beginning of the PSC meeting until the confidential portion of the meeting began.

Dear Members of the Public Service Commission,

My name is Monica Johnson and I am a resident of Casey County ([REDACTED], Liberty, KY) and serve as Director of our local Chamber of Commerce (P.O. Box 278, Liberty, KY) and we wish to provide the following statement in support of the Liberty Power Station.

Casey County has long faced challenges in being recognized as a significant player on the larger state and regional stage. Often considered too rural to compete with our neighboring communities, we have struggled to demonstrate our full potential and

contribute at a broader scale. However, despite these challenges, I am confident that you will find no better place to live, work, or invest than Casey County.

Our community is deeply committed to growth, progress, and improving the lives of our residents. We are not just looking for infrastructure; we are eager for opportunities that will elevate our community and create long-lasting benefits. The opportunity to host a power station in Casey County is one such opportunity, and we firmly believe that the presence of Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) will have a transformative impact, extending well beyond the power station itself.

During the construction phase of the power station, significant local spending will be injected into the economy. This spending will benefit our local businesses—suppliers, contractors, restaurants, hotels, and retailers—providing an immediate economic boost to our community. The surge in economic activity will not only support our local businesses but also foster growth and resilience, offering both short-term benefits and long-term rewards for our county.

In addition to the immediate economic boost, the power station will create a lasting investment in our community through the generation of long-term jobs once construction is completed. These jobs will provide stable employment opportunities for our residents and future generations, contributing to the economic vitality of our county for years to come. This is not just a short-term gain, but a commitment to the long-term prosperity of our community.

EKPC's commitment to our county will provide vital infrastructure, new job opportunities, and economic growth that will directly benefit not only Casey County but the surrounding areas as well. Beyond that, the partnership will bring increased stability to our region and allow us to better contribute to the state's overall development and progress.

We feel that Casey County is uniquely positioned to support this initiative and welcomes the chance to demonstrate our community's resilience and potential. This power station would serve as a key step forward in our continued efforts to improve and grow, and we are excited for the possibilities it will bring.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and for your support of our community's future.

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Best regards,

Nicki Johnson

Director

Phone



Find us @



**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Rod Woford](#)  
**Cc:** [Nick Comer](#); [King Jerry](#); [R. Taylor Rousey](#); [Lee Barry](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on Case #2024-00310 - Liberty Station project  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 8:55:00 AM

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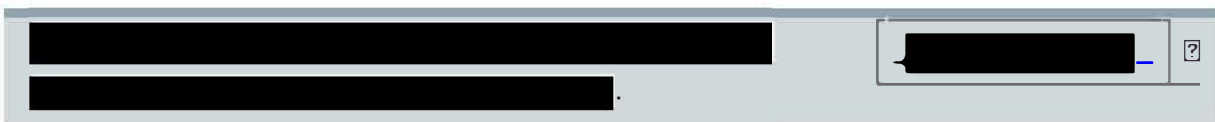
Case No. 2024-00310

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**From:** Rod Woford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:40 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Cc:** Nick Comer [REDACTED]; King Jerry [REDACTED]; R. Taylor Rousey [REDACTED]; Lee Barry [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comments on Case #2024-00310 - Liberty Station project



I encourage and support the Public Service Commission's approval of East Kentucky Power's Liberty Station project.

Growing up in Casey County, moving away for opportunity and returning after a business career, I gained first hand knowledge of the challenges of encouraging business development in Casey County, serving as a board member of the Liberty / Casey County Economic Development Authority. The Authority and Casey County leadership have the challenge of encouraging business development in a county with significant needs in educational attainment, workforce development, transportation and low average family income. The "Liberty Station project" provides an immense opportunity for the residents of Casey County's existing and future businesses as it provides a large capital investment, high skilled jobs and tax revenue for the local community. Most importantly it provides clean, reliable and affordable electricity for Kentuckians, including residents and businesses served by the three electric cooperatives serving portions of Casey County

Your approval is one of many steps required to make this a successful project for

Kentucky, the region and Casey County. Thank you for your consideration.

**Rod Wolford**

[REDACTED]

*Windsor, KY 42565*

Home: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [John M. Wolford](#)  
**Cc:** [Nick Comer](#); [King Jerry](#); [Wolford Rod](#); [R. Taylor Rousey](#); [Lee Barry](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PSC Case #2024-00310  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 8:54:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Case No. 2024-00310

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** John M. Wolford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 3:02 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Cc:** Nick Comer [REDACTED]; King Jerry [REDACTED]; Wolford Rod [REDACTED]; R. Taylor Rousey [REDACTED]; Lee Barry [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PSC Case #202400310



**To Whom It May Concern,**

As President and CEO of Casey County Bank, I am always deeply invested in community development projects that support sustainable employment, enhance quality of life, and drive further economic growth. I am very familiar with this project and wish to express our bank's full support for its approval. This initiative represents the most significant economic impact our community has ever seen, with a substantial investment that promises long-term benefits.

As with any community development effort, there will always be some who are hesitant about change. However, this project is environmentally friendly, clean, and sustainable. East Kentucky Power Cooperative has demonstrated that it will be an

excellent community partner moving forward. While I understand the need to consider all perspectives, I strongly believe that the benefits of approving this project far outweigh any concerns.

I urge you to approve this project for the betterment of our community's future.

**Sincerely,**

Mark Wolford

President & CEO



**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** [Lee, Barry](#)  
**Cc:** [Nick Comer](#); [jdking48@yahoo.com](mailto:jdking48@yahoo.com); [Wolford Rod](#); [R. Taylor Rousey](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PSC Case #2024-00310  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 8:53:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Case No. 2024-00310

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Lee, Barry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 10:58 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Cc:** Nick Comer [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Wolford Rod [REDACTED]; R. Taylor Rousey [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PSC Case #202400310



PSC and others,

As Superintendent of Casey County Schools, I am committed to supporting opportunities that enhance the well-being and future of our students, families, and the broader community. The proposed **Liberty Station**, a 214-megawatt natural gas electric-generating facility by East Kentucky Power Cooperative, represents a significant investment in Casey County, bringing new jobs, economic growth, and long-term stability to our region.

With the addition of **23 full-time jobs and significant employment** through the construction phase, Liberty Station will provide much-needed employment opportunities that can benefit local families and strengthen our tax base, which in turn supports our schools, infrastructure, and public services. Reliable energy production is also critical for attracting future businesses and ensuring that our students have access to modern technology and resources in their education.



We recognize that any major project brings a diversity of opinions, and we respect those who have concerns. Thoughtful discussions and careful planning are essential to ensuring that growth benefits everyone. However, it is also important to move forward with projects that provide economic opportunity and strengthen our county's future.

I appreciate the work being done to ensure that this project moves forward and aligns with our community's best interests. I look forward to seeing how Liberty Station contributes to Casey County's continued success.



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**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** ["Cara Cooper"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: K4ED Network Comment Case #2024-00310  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 8:51:00 AM

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Case No. 2024-00310

Thank you for your comments on the application of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.. 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, 2024-00310, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2024-00310 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Cara Cooper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 4:40 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** K4ED Network Comment Case #2024-00310

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please see the attached public comment kn behalf of Kentuckians for Energy Democracy.

Thank you  
Cara Cooper

## CPCN Gas Network Comment

### Case #2024-00310

Kentuckians need electric utilities which prioritize affordable energy, energy efficiency, distributed generation, and grid resiliency. Unfortunately, the existing business model is oftentimes at odds with those needs. That is why we rely on the Public Service Commission to ensure that our utilities are headed in the right direction and making the choices that are best for customers and our energy system both now and in the long-term.

Kentuckians face sky-rocketing energy costs, inequitable access to energy, polluting and aging fossil fuel infrastructure, and climate-induced extreme weather, all harming our communities and straining our outdated systems. As the energy landscape keeps shifting underfoot due to geopolitics, market conditions, and the regulatory environment, fossil fuel investments are more likely to become stranded assets. The good news is that new and efficient energy resources are readily available to make a rapid, low-cost transition to the resilient and reliable energy systems that we all need.

Our utility companies should be proposing investments that will lower bills for customers while providing safe and reliable energy - **not investing in risky gas infrastructure that will both raise our bills and put lives at risk.**

**Instead of seriously considering all available options, EKPC is proposing to build a \$500 million, 214 MW RICE generator that would run on natural gas and diesel fuel.** We are concerned about the serious impact that this proposal will have on the local community, the risky and expensive investment in uncommon RICE technology, and the lack of transparency in EKPC's process of choosing both site and type of generation.

Kentucky statute requires the PSC to apply the *fair, just, and reasonable standard* when making decisions. But our current fossil-fuel-based energy system has resulted in human and financial costs that are neither fair, just, nor reasonable. **When alternative investments are available that lower energy bills and reduce costly harm then further investment in fossil fuels is not acceptable.**

**For these reasons, we ask the PSC to:**

- A. Deny EKPC's proposal to build a RICE generator in Liberty.

- B. Mandate EKPC to run a full RFP process for the new generation that includes and fairly evaluates all reasonable supply and demand side options for meeting their stated capacity needs.
- C. Require the companies to study whether they can serve customers more affordably and reliably by joining PJM or another ISO
- D. Require EKPC to go back to the drawing board with their DSM/EE programs, as the proposed programs do not meet Kentucky's needs for energy conservation or the needs of low and moderate income rate payers, and do not fully leverage the important role of DSM/EE in meeting capacity needs and supporting grid reliability.
- E. Require a public hearing in Frankfort and in local communities who will be affected by the proposed plant.

**Below, we provide further rationale and evidence in support of our requests.**

### **1. Kentuckians Need Informed, Transparent, Multi-Stakeholder Decision Making**

Meaningful public engagement and public representation is essential to the PSC realizing its duty to protect the public interest. Decisions should be informed by public input, public context, and the best available data and industry practices. Transparency should be ensured between the public, utility companies, and the commission.

Unfortunately, the plan to propose this gas plant was not informed or transparent, nor did it include all relevant stakeholders:

- EKPC did not include this RICE unit in their most recent IRP.
- EKPC began contacting property owners near the Liberty site in **August of 2023**. **Stakeholders and other nearby residents were not made aware of any proposal until the CPCN was filed at the PSC.**
- EKPC only held one community meeting in Casey Co. about this project. Outside of a mailing to adjacent properties and a post in the local paper, EKPC did not attempt outreach to other community members. Casey Co. is home to nearly 16,000 residents that will be affected by this proposal, in addition to more than 500,000 co-op member-owners who will be on the hook for this investment.

***Failure to fully involve the public in the CPCN process is not fair, just or reasonable.***

## 2. Kentuckians Can't Afford Another Risky Investment

Kentuckians are already struggling to pay their electricity bills and face high energy burdens across the state. According to the most recent Powerless in the US Report, disconnections for non-payment exploded by 228% in the first ten months of 2022, as contrasted by a national average increase of 29%.<sup>1</sup> Kentucky is one of the top ten states with the most utility shut offs (with KU/LGE being one of the worst offenders in the country).

Building a **\$500 million** RICE unit will be a risky investment for Kentuckians already struggling to make ends meet. Throughout the life of this RICE unit and beyond, rate-payers would be at risk of footing an expensive bill for volatile natural gas prices and future regulatory costs. Plus, due to the declining cost of renewables and future carbon, methane, and environmental compliance costs, gas infrastructure like this RICE plant will have a high potential to become a stranded asset.

**EKPC chose to propose a RICE unit without considering all other available options - even when grid scale battery projects are growing and are proven to be reliable and cost-effective<sup>2</sup>.** For example, the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has included batteries in its forecasting process and by the end of 2024 had over 10,000 megawatts available from battery storage.<sup>3</sup>

***Asking Kentucky rate-payers to shore up risky investment is not fair, just or reasonable.***

## 3. Gas Infrastructure Puts Kentuckians' Health and Safety at Risk

Climate changing greenhouse gasses (Kentucky's energy supply is one of the most carbon intensive<sup>4</sup> in the country), and co-pollutants from fossil fuels, endanger our health, environment, agriculture, safety and economy through pollution and extreme weather<sup>5 6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Powerless in the US

[https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/energy-justice/pdfs/Powerless-in-the-US\\_Report.pdf](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/energy-justice/pdfs/Powerless-in-the-US_Report.pdf) pages 4 and 5

<sup>2</sup>

[https://rmi.org/clean-energy-101-how-batteries-can-support-grid-reliability/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=spark&utm\\_content=spark&utm\\_campaign=2024\\_08\\_28&utm\\_term=title-1](https://rmi.org/clean-energy-101-how-batteries-can-support-grid-reliability/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=spark&utm_content=spark&utm_campaign=2024_08_28&utm_term=title-1)

<sup>3</sup> <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/10022025/solar-battery-storage-texas-grid/>

<sup>4</sup> EIA Emissions By State Data <https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/>

<sup>5</sup> EPA Climate Change Indicators- Weather and Climate

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/weather-climate>

<sup>6</sup> Association of Extreme Heat With All-Cause Mortality in the Contiguous US, 2008-2017

[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2792389?utm\\_campaign=articlePDF&utm\\_medium=articlePDFlink&utm\\_source=articlePDF&utm\\_content=jamanetworkopen.2022.12957](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2792389?utm_campaign=articlePDF&utm_medium=articlePDFlink&utm_source=articlePDF&utm_content=jamanetworkopen.2022.12957)

Kentucky's state ranking for impact on the environment is the worst in the US<sup>7</sup>. **According to research from the Rocky Mountain Institute, health effects from coal-fired generation cost the state an estimated \$14 billion since 2015<sup>8</sup>; we should not be making the same mistake with gas infrastructure.** These threats disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color<sup>9</sup>, as well as the health of energy workers and people living near energy facilities.

Along with threats from pollutants, gas plants and the infrastructure necessary to operate them are a direct threat to workers and communities living and working near these facilities.

**Unfortunately, Kentuckians are all too familiar with the direct threats to safety caused by fossil fuel infrastructure like gas pipelines.** In 2019, a regional gas pipeline ruptured and exploded in Lincoln County, killing one Kentuckian and injuring others in the area.<sup>10</sup> Along with these deadly consequences, the explosion also displaced local residents and destroyed the nearby community.<sup>11</sup>

There are a number of concerns regarding EKPC's proposed greenfield site for the RICE generator.

- EKPC has not adequately studied the impacts of the RICE generator on nearby farmland.
- EKPC has not adequately studied the impacts on the East Casey Water District, which provides water for Casey County residents and will also be providing water for the RICE generator.
- EKPC has not adequately studied the impacts of noise pollution from the project.
- Many residents in Casey County use well water provided by local springs. EKPC has not adequately studied the impacts of the RICE generator on the numerous nearby water sources near the proposed site.

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<sup>7</sup> Electric Utility Performance; A State By State Data Review  
<https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Electric-Utility-Performance-Report-Second-Edition-final.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>

[https://rmi.org/how-uneconomic-coal-plants-are-taking-a-toll-on-our-health/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=spark&utm\\_content=spark&utm\\_campaign=2025\\_01\\_16&utm\\_term=title-1](https://rmi.org/how-uneconomic-coal-plants-are-taking-a-toll-on-our-health/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=spark&utm_content=spark&utm_campaign=2025_01_16&utm_term=title-1)

<sup>9</sup> EPA Social Vulnerability Report <https://www.epa.gov/cira/social-vulnerability-report>

<sup>10</sup>

<https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Evacuations-underway-as-massive-explosion-rocks-Lincoln-County-513479351.html>

<sup>11</sup>

<https://www.courier-journal.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2019/08/01/kentucky-gas-line-explosion-see-photos-damage-near-junction-city/1886979001/>

**These impacts are expensive.** Climate impacts and pollution increase food, health care, and insurance costs, and lead to housing loss and costly recovery from extreme weather events<sup>12</sup>. Kentucky's severe storms in 2021 were estimated to cost between two and five billion dollars<sup>13</sup>, and floods in 2022 were estimated to cost between 500M and one Billion dollars<sup>14</sup> and those values may only reflect the cost of housing recovery<sup>15</sup>. (The top 3 years for extreme weather events since 1880, as measured by damage costs<sup>16</sup>, occurred in 2020, 2021, 2022). Utilities themselves will be paying, and passing along, recovery costs.

***Building harmful, possibly deadly energy infrastructure is not fair, just or reasonable.***

#### **4. It's Time to Invest in Kentuckians**

Energy efficiency of our homes and other buildings is essential to energy affordability and reducing emissions. Plus, investments in distributed energy resources, demand-side management, and energy efficiency programs have the potential to lower high capacity needs that lead to gas plant proposals.<sup>17</sup> Our utilities should be at the forefront of creating innovative DER and DSM programs that could lower customer bills, make homes more comfortable, and avoid the need for new generation.

Kentucky ranks near the bottom in state and utility policies and programs that support energy efficiency; we rank 44<sup>th</sup> among states in residential energy efficiency program savings as a

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<sup>12</sup> Social Cost of Carbon; Methane and Nitrous Oxide

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/TechnicalSupportDocument\\_SocialCostofCarbonMethaneNitrousOxide.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/TechnicalSupportDocument_SocialCostofCarbonMethaneNitrousOxide.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> NCEI Summary Stats Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters 2021

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/summary-stats/KY/2021>

<sup>14</sup> NCEI Summary Stats Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters 2022

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/summary-stats/KY/2022>

<sup>15</sup> 2022 KY Flood Housing Damage <https://ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/housing-damage-2022-ky-flood/>

<sup>16</sup> 2022 U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters in Historical Context

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/2022-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical-context>

<sup>17</sup>[https://www.utilitydive.com/news/stop-fretting-about-load-growth-and-get-serious-about-demand/722701/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Issue:%202024-08-07%20Utility%20Dive%20Load%20Management%20%5Bissue:64694%5D&utm\\_term=Utility%20Dive:%20Load%20Management](https://www.utilitydive.com/news/stop-fretting-about-load-growth-and-get-serious-about-demand/722701/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202024-08-07%20Utility%20Dive%20Load%20Management%20%5Bissue:64694%5D&utm_term=Utility%20Dive:%20Load%20Management)

percentage of sales, and in state wide percent of revenues spent on energy efficiency programs; we also fail in programs that adequately support efficiency for low income customers<sup>18 19 20</sup>.

Kentucky lacks policies that support adopting innovation and recent developments in grid operation, including community solar, solar leasing, and virtual power plants, which makes it harder for renters and other communities to access lower bills through clean energy. KU/LGE's "solar share" program is prohibitively expensive for many, and their method used to calculate credit for energy fed to the grid ("instantaneous netting") significantly limits the affordability of rooftop solar. The companies' lack of innovation and customer empowerment is costing Kentuckians money every day. "The net cost to the utility of providing resource adequacy from a VPP is only roughly 40% to 60% of the cost of alternative options... When accounting for additional societal benefits, the VPP is the only resource with the potential to provide resource adequacy at negative net cost."<sup>21</sup>

Instead of investing in a risky RICE unit, EKPC should embrace battery storage technology that would provide much-needed resilience to the local grid without threatening our health and safety.

***Failure to fully and equitably embrace these solutions is not fair, just or reasonable.***

There is now plenty of data to show that renewable energy is both reliable and an affordable option for providing electricity in Kentucky, that climate change is a real and serious threat, and that everyday Kentuckians are struggling to pay their electric bills. By delaying the transition away from fossil fuels we are only increasing the cost of making that transition, which will in turn raise rates. **In applying the fair, just and reasonable standard, the Public Service Commission should demand that utilities ensure that rates stay affordable by denying risky gas infrastructure like this RICE unit and prioritizing energy efficiency and a rapid transition to clean, renewable energy.**

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<sup>18</sup> Electric Utility Performance; A State By State Data Review  
<https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Electric-Utility-Performance-Report-Second-Edition-final.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Pathways to Healthy, Affordable, Decarbonized Housing; A State Scorecard  
<https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/h2201.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Kentucky Factsheet; How Energy Efficiency Can Help Low Income Households  
<https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdf/fact-sheet/ses-kentucky-100917.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Real Reliability: The Value of Virtual Power  
[https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Real-Reliability-The-Value-of-Virtual-Power\\_5.3.2023.pdf](https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Real-Reliability-The-Value-of-Virtual-Power_5.3.2023.pdf)



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