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Cc: [PSC Public Comment](#); [Bridwell, Linda C \(PSC\)](#)
Subject: 2024-00305 public comment
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 2:06:00 PM

Case No. 2024-00305

Thank you for your comments on the application of Kentucky Power 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, 2024-00305, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2024-00305 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

PSC Questions

Hello Linda

I apologize for the email. I won't be available when the Tuesday meeting starts with Kentucky Power. I have some specific questions about Kentucky Power (KP) and their proposals and questions in general about the proliferation of independent electricity providers (Solar, Wind, Hydro, Nuclear...).

- 1) Does KP actually need the power from the proposed solar sites to service its customers or will it be distributed outside the service area?
- 2) Are the proposed solar facilities partly funded with tax dollars?
- 3) Does KP or any grid operator have to allow outside vendors an interconnect to dump electricity on their grid?
- 4) If a utility is forced to accept power from an outside source how will it be regulated?
- 5) Can a business build its own generation facility and not run afoul of the monopoly each electric provider enjoys?
- 6) If AEP sells off KP what will that do to the outside provider contracts?

Here is my reasons for these questions.

I know where KP generation is located. If KP needs more power to supply their customers they should be building it. I can't see an outside vendor building and providing power cheaper and more reliably than KP could themselves. How does outside vendors guarantee quality of service? Do they promise to KP or have a direct contract with the PSC? If the outside vendor has partly funded their facilities with taxpayer money and this lowers their cost of electricity below what the utility can provide how can the price be considered lower than what the utility can provide? My thought is that if an energy generating station isn't viable without taxpayer monies it shouldn't be built and variable power shouldn't be dumped onto the grid. If the power generated is sent outside the KP coverage area then the KP customers should have that profit counted to their electric bill because they have paid for the lines that are being used.

It seems like a real problem to balance variable solar in Perry County, and all the other proposed sites, with the base load power in Ashland or West Virginia. Without some sort of storage to balance the variable input into a steady voltage the reliability of the grid is greatly compromised.

If a 30 year contract is signed this year and 5 years from now solar panels are twice as efficient and a third the cost can another vendor build a new solar facility and dump their power on the grid or is it first come first serve? Electric providers are required to provide the cheapest and most reliable power so again it doesn't make sense to sign agreements with outside vendors. And if an outside vendor builds and integrates a facility and then files

bankruptcy or the facility gets damaged beyond repair and that provider decides to walk away what will this do to reliability of the grid and where will the electricity come from to replace it?

At a conference a few years ago the question was asked what would happen if the utility was forced to take outside electricity. The answer was that if they had to take outside sources and it forced them to shut down or limit their existing generation someone would have to pay for the idled equipment. That someone would be the consumer. This does not provide the cheapest electricity to the consumer.

Another person I talked to said by law he could dump up to 5MW (I think) into any substation without needing an interconnect. He was beginning to look around existing substations for property to place solar panels.

At a meeting on the proposed solar facility in Perry County I asked one of the representatives who the power was dedicated to or promised to (these virtual power agreements are a real joke). He said no its just going to be dumped on the grid. Now I'm a mechanical engineer and not an electrical engineer but I know the grid is not a battery nor magic nor does it shunt electrons into an alternate universe until needed. I think this one statement justifies not approving a sighting plan or allowing an interconnect to outside vendors.

I know the price of land in Eastern Kentucky is cheap compared to the farmland most solar providers seem to prefer and the NIMBY's of the world don't want solar facilities in their back yards but this is also a question of economic development. Solar providers without any type of storage will destroy an area's ability to attract industry. You have the data center rush eating up every available KW out there and the promise of manufacturing coming back to America. All these require base load power. No business needing reliable 24-7 power will locate a hundred miles or more from a base load generation plant. You can't build power generation in the boondock's and then build billions of dollars of transmission lines. Rate payers cannot afford this.

The tax incentives promised to the Counties have the politicians pushing for building these independent facilities. Their input seems to be overriding the public's input. Being from Eastern Kentucky I have never seen a tax dollar elected officials didn't like and sadly I've never seen them spend a dollar wisely. A couple million over 20 to 30 years isn't worth the damage it will cause.

I have always heard we don't have a power plant in the Hazard area because even in mining's heyday we never used enough electricity to justify one. It was cheaper to haul the coal elsewhere and send us back what little we needed. Hence distribution liners were never built to handle a lot of electricity. Now the distribution lines might be much better today but you still have a lot of loss over long distances. So does it really make sense to build variable power here and ship it elsewhere?

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