

Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2025-00186  
Response Wednesday, March 18, 2026

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, 2025-00186 in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at: [View Case Filings for: 2025-00186 \(ky.gov\)](#).

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Received through Public Comments

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

From: Andrew Melnykovych  
City: LOUISVILLE  
State: KY  
Zip: 40243-1933

Comments:  
To the Commission-

I was unable to attend the public meeting on this case held in Louisville on March 17. I am submitting below my the prepared remarks I would have given had I attended.

Chair Hatton and members of the Commission-

Good evening. My name is Andrew Melnykovych. I reside at 12004 Running Creek Road in Louisville and am an electric-only customer of the Louisville Gas Electric Company, although better than 75 percent of my home energy needs are supplied by the solar panels on my roof.

Because the Commission's primary responsibility is economic, rather than environmental, regulation, I am not going to address issues of nuclear safety or waste disposal, problematic as they have proven to be.

I find it very appropriate that this meeting is being held on Saint Patrick's Day. Over the last half century, the promise of new nuclear power generation that could be built on time in a cost-effective manner to produce affordable electricity has proven as elusive as the mythical leprechaun's pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Every nuclear power facility built in the United States in that time has taken far longer than anticipated to bring into service, incurred vast cost overruns, and led to higher electric bills for ratepayers. Failed projects often have left ratepayers holding the bag for stranded costs.

Unlike many others in this room, I did not enjoy an up-close-and-personal view of the Marble Hill fiasco just across the Ohio River in Indiana. I was out West, watching the much larger boondoggle of the Washington Public Power Supply System five-reactor project come crashing down, affecting even the electric utility in Casper, Wyoming. Whoops indeed.

Despite the long series of unfortunate events related to nuclear power generation, I am not unalterably opposed to splitting (or fusing) atoms to produce electricity. I believe we someday will have the technical wherewithal to do so safely and cost-effectively and to deal with the

resulting waste in a responsible manner. There may eventually be a role for nuclear energy as a source of low-carbon electrical baseload power at a competitive price.

But we're not there yet. Under current circumstances there are two ways for new nuclear power to compete in the marketplace: either by artificially lowering its cost through massive taxpayer-funded construction subsidies; or by raising the cost of competing baseload generating technologies, which means imposing substantial carbon taxes on gas- and coal-fired generation. I suspect that many of us here tonight would support the latter, but a legislative mandate for either of those options seems very unlikely.

For the present, the duty of the Commission remains unaltered. It is to ensure that safe and reliable power is provided to the ratepayers of regulated utilities at the lowest reasonable cost. All Commission decisions on proposals for either construction of new generation or purchases of power supply are required to rest on that core principle.

I think it is instructive to recall here the EcoPower case, which took place while I was a member of the PSC staff. In that matter, the Kentucky courts ultimately ruled that the PSC should not allow a utility to impose unreasonable costs on its ratepayers by authorizing that utility to enter into a contract to purchase biomass-generated electricity from a legislatively-favored source when that electricity was priced at far above other available options.

I submit that, in the near term, proposals for nuclear generation are similar to the EcoPower case. Based on the history of projects brought on line in the last decade, there can be little confidence that a nuclear power plant can be completed on schedule and within budget and then produce electricity at rates that are competitive with either renewable sources in combination with storage technologies or with remaining traditional fossil-fueled generation.

I believe it is incumbent on the Commission to carefully consider initiatives toward nuclear generation by regulated utilities without giving undue deference to whatever legislative rainbows the General Assembly may construct. Rather, the Commission should adhere to its core mission of insuring that regulated utilities provide safe and reliable service at fair, just and reasonable rates and that those utilities do not embark on ill-advised ventures that threaten their financial stability or unduly burden their ratepayers.

For the moment, at least, that means saying "we don't think so" to nuclear power. Thank you.

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From: Nancy KupperSmith  
City: St. Matthews  
State: KY  
Zip: 40207

Comments:

From all I have learned about nuclear energy:

The cost

Delays

Safety issues

Time it takes to build

I am NOT in favor of building nuclear power here in Ky or anywhere. I am appalled that Ky wants to have 'we the people' pay for the experiment! Taxes are high enough as it is! I have read much about nuclear energy to make it "safe" the costs are very high raise rates! I say NO to nuclear

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