

Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2025-00257
Response Tuesday, January 13, 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, 2025-00257 in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at: [View Case Filings for: 2025-00257 \(ky.gov\)](#).

Received through Public Comments Monday, January 12, 2026

From: Tena Terry
City: Catlettsburg
State: KY
Zip: 41129

Comments:
\$1251.34 was the total of my electric this month I dont know how you think people can afford this.

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Received through Public Comments Monday, January 12, 2026

From: Eddie Clayton
City: Ashland
State: KY
Zip: 41102

**Comments:
MEMORANDUM**

To: Kentucky Public Service Commission
From: Eddie Clayton, Ashland Resident
Case No.: 2025-00257 Kentucky Power Company
Date: January 09, 2026

Subject: Public Comment on Rate Increase Request

I am writing as a concerned resident of Ashland, Kentucky, to share my thoughts on Kentucky Power's request for a 14.9% residential, 15% industrial, and 13% commercial rate increase. As someone who has experienced the impact of high energy costs—especially during the winter months—I understand the importance of reliable and affordable electricity. I appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment and would like to respectfully offer the following observations for the Commission's consideration.

During the public meeting in Ashland on January 8, 2026, several residents expressed concerns about Kentucky Power's stewardship of public resources. The company's annual \$1 billion in shareholder payouts, the closure of the Big Sandy power plant, and the continued investment in the Mitchell coal-burning plant in West Virginia—despite its planned decommissioning in 2040—have raised questions about long-term planning. Additionally, the decision to invest in legacy infrastructure, such as replacing poles and transformers after storms rather than adopting more resilient solutions like burying cables or protective shelters, may not be the most cost-effective or forward-thinking approach. There was also concern that Kentucky Power may delay removing hazardous debris—such as trees on power lines—until after an emergency occurs, potentially to secure insurance coverage. I personally reported a dangerous situation after a tornado passed through. [I almost lost my house and my wife and I had to evacuate for three days during the Butte Fire in Calaveras County California. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) determined that poor maintenance of a power line led to a tree contacting the line, causing the blaze. The fire destroyed a total of 921 structures, including; 549 homes, 368 outbuildings, and 4 commercial properties. CAL FIRE is seeking \$90 million from PGE, and 17 law firms are representing

1,800 people who expect to be reimbursed for damages. In addition the Board of Supervisors for Calaveras County are seeking “hundreds of millions in compensation” for a fire that caused more than \$1 billion in damages. Calaveras County also asked the California Public Utilities Commission to investigate PGE’s role in the fire.] After stating the dangers of a wildfire or power outage, the issue remained unresolved for another six months. The resulting fire in California, which was linked to poor maintenance of power lines, serves as a sobering reminder of the risks involved. I hope the Commission will consider whether these practices align with the public interest and safety.

I also want to highlight that Kentucky Power currently charges the highest rates in the state. I believe it would be helpful for the Commission to review how Kentucky Power compares to other utilities and to consider what steps the company is taking to reduce rates and improve affordability. A detailed analysis of rate comparisons and a clear plan for cost reduction would be valuable.

The proposed rate increase will have significant economic impacts, particularly on fixed-income residents and retirees. I understand that utilities must cover costs, but I hope the Commission will carefully evaluate whether the rate increase is justified by clear benefits to ratepayers—such as improved reliability, modernized infrastructure, or long-term cost savings—rather than by the need to increase shareholder dividends.

To ensure transparency and accountability, I respectfully suggest that the Commission consider requiring Kentucky Power to provide detailed financial documentation showing exactly where the increased revenue will be allocated. This would help ratepayers understand how their money is being used and ensure that investments are focused on long-term reliability and cost savings.

I also believe that establishing clear performance benchmarks—such as reliability targets, outage reduction goals, response times, and safety standards—would be a constructive step. Customer assistance programs could further support vulnerable populations during this transition.

Finally, I appreciate the importance of public input and would be grateful if the Commission could consider holding additional public hearings or extending the comment period. This would allow more residents to share their perspectives and ensure that all voices are heard.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I hope the Commission will carefully review the concerns raised and work toward a decision that balances the needs of ratepayers with the long-term reliability and sustainability of Kentucky Power’s service.

Sincerely,
Eddie Clayton
Ashland, Kentucky

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Received through Public Comments Monday, January 12, 2026

From: Jessica Sexton
City: Ashland
State: Kentucky
Zip: 41102

Comments:

Dear Public Service Commission,

You have heard so many reasons as to why KY Power Company should not get away with another rate increase yet we all know they most likely will. The people know that only you can stop them, and I pray that you do. Im writing you to ask for your mercy for the people. I work at a local water company and I see first hand the people that cant afford a \$30.00 bill and many times its due to an outrageous electric bill that KY Power keeps increasing. The people in our area cannot afford the electric bills as it is, and now they are asking for another increase which will only put more strain on the community. For some, its impossible for these bills to be paid so homeowners and renters are seeking help to local Community Action centers for assistance that also go by income. These funds will have to increase to meet the demand if rates increase. There are plenty that dont qualify for help, so they have to forfeit groceries or other utilities just to keep the lights on and keep their babies warm. Its wrong to do people that way. I hope you put a stop to this increase. Our people are begging for your help.

Thank you for your time.

Jessica Sexton

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Received through Public Comments Monday, January 12, 2026

From: Paula Bowling
City: Ashland
State: Kentucky
Zip: 41102

Comments:

Anyone that knows me knows that I have been attending PSC meetings for years. I'm the one that is always protesting another rate hike and asking for our transmission lines to be buried. That trimming trees and cutting brush isn't enough to guarantee a resilient power supply and as consumers, we deserve more

Before I get into specifics, first let me offer some perspective on the impact that ever-increasing rate hikes are having on consumers. On average, electric bills are increasing at twice the rate of inflation. Over 52 million Americans were unable to pay their electric bills at least once last year, and annually, approximately 3 million people have their electricity shut off. Here in Eastern Kentucky we are paying some of the highest rates in the nation. IOUs (Investor Owned Utilities which are private monopolies by the way) like Kentucky Power, a subsidiary of American Electric Power, like to paint a picture that they are asking for rates that are just and reasonable. The reality paints a different picture.

When asking for rate hikes IOUs want you to believe they are only asking for operating costs (salaries and the cost of fuel), maintenance costs, and capital investments including the cost of power plant upgrade projects, the cost of infrastructure investments and a little on top for a just and reasonable profit known as the “rate of return”. Operating and maintenance costs are straightforward and can be seen as openly observable costs. Where things get murky is calculating the cost of capital investments. These costs must be estimated and IOUs are overinvesting in projects that don’t benefit consumers or the environment but instead are designed to increase their rate of return. IOUs devote significant resources to securing approvals for higher rates. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent to retain lawyers, economists, accountants, and PR specialists that specialize in intervening on the IOUs’ behalf with experts and reports. Millions are also spent on lobbying on the federal and state levels. To their detriment, the consumer is paying for all of this.

What do I mean by overinvesting in projects that don't benefit the consumer or the environment? Over the next five years, load growth is projected to increase by 25%, driven by data center expansion. AI and cloud services are expected to more than double energy consumption by the end of the decade. This will be costly but is a small but necessary piece of

the puzzle concerning consumer burden. Where consumers are being squeezed unnecessarily is instead of IOUs investing in upgrades such as non-wired alternatives which reduces reliance on traditional transmission infrastructure, buried transmission lines that keep costly repairs in check when destructive weather events occur, they are dumping capital into legacy assets like poles and wires, and customers are footing the bill. (To clarify NWA (non wired alternative investments include demand response, solar, energy storage, combined heat and power (CHP), microgrid, conservation or energy efficiency measures, and other distributed energy resources (DERs) or distributed generation (DG). NWA projects can include these and other investments individually or in combination to meet specified needs in a cost-effective manner.) The current financial model of IOUs disincentivizes grid improvements that allow for efficiency. This has even been acknowledged in a report by the DOE just last year.

I also want to point out that many of you have heard that the electrical grid is not able to handle the increasing number of battery electric and plug in electric vehicles we see on the roads these days. This is simply false and is not what is driving your electric bills higher. The grid capacity buildout for AI data centers alone, just over the next five years is enough to charge two electrified vehicles for every single household in the US, while electrified vehicles are likely to be less than 25% of all US cars on the road by 2030. Also relevant is that AI data centers are projected to consume 2.5 times the grid capacity of EVs in 5 years.

So what now? Smart grid technology and grid enhancing technologies must be embraced. We need Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI): Smart meters that provide real-time data on energy usage. Distribution Automation: Technology that helps detect and respond to outages more efficiently. Energy Efficiency Tools: Programs and tools to help customers monitor and reduce energy consumption.

Grid Enhancing technologies are essential to maintaining a reliable grid. GETs include: Dynamic Line Rating (DLR): Real-time monitoring of transmission line capacity. Power Flow Control Devices: Reroute electricity to balance load. Advanced Sensors and Analytics: Improve outage response and grid visibility.

Renewable energy integration must be capitalized upon in Kentucky. Coal has been in decline since the 1950s and is an outdated technology that is contributing to climate change. It is no longer feasible to maintain this outdated technology. Instead Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) such as solar panels, wind turbines, and battery storage systems should be utilized and connected at local levels. Where these energy sources were once considered inadequate, technology has improved with such great strides in these areas that we now see them as the leaders in electrical supply in other states. We can no longer afford to ignore this technology.

On the renewable energy integration front we must also utilize Microgrids and Energy Storage Systems. Microgrids are localized grids that can operate independently during outages and support renewable integration. As of now, Kentucky Power does not appear to be actively utilizing microgrids. Kentucky Power has instead focused on traditional grid upgrades, such as transmission line rebuilds and substation enhancements in some counties. As for energy storage, Kentucky has state-level policies that support energy storage, including net metering and interconnection standards for distributed energy resources, tax incentives and demand response programs that encourage storage adoption. It is acknowledged that Kentucky Power has issued requests for proposals for energy storage systems. Storage

*Angela M Goad
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

*Jody Kyler Cohn
Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry
425 Walnut Street
Suite 2400
Cincinnati, OH 45202

*Honorable Kimberly S McCann
Attorney at Law
VanAntwerp Attorneys, LLP
1544 Winchester Avenue, 5th Floor
P. O. Box 1111
Ashland, KY 41105-1111

*Ashley Wilmes
Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 1070
Frankfort, KY 40602

* Jennifer L. Parrish
Kentucky Power Company
1645 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101

*Lawrence W Cook
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

*Byron Gary
Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 1070
Frankfort, KY 40602

*Jeffery D. Newcomb
Kentucky Power Company
1645 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101

*Matt Partymiller
President
Kentucky Solar Industries Association
1038 Brentwood Court
Suite B
Lexington, KY 40511

*Honorable David Edward Spenard
Strobo Barkley PLLC
239 South 5th Street
Ste 917
Louisville, KY 40202

*John Horne
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

*Michael West
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KY 40601-8204

*Tom Fitzgerald
Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 1070
Frankfort, KY 40602

*Kentucky Power Company
1645 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101

*Michael J. Schuler
American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Post Office Box 16631
Columbus, OH 43216

*Hector Garcia
Kentucky Power Company
1645 Winchester Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101

*Kenneth J Gish, Jr.
Stites & Harbison
250 West Main Street, Suite 2300
Lexington, KY 40507

*Honorable Michael L Kurtz
Attorney at Law
Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry
425 Walnut Street
Suite 2400
Cincinnati, OH 45202

*Harlee P. Havens
Stites & Harbison
250 West Main Street, Suite 2300
Lexington, KY 40507

*Katie M Glass
Stites & Harbison
421 West Main Street
P. O. Box 634
Frankfort, KY 40602-0634

*Randal A. Strobo
Strobo Barkley PLLC
239 South 5th Street
Ste 917
Louisville, KY 40202

*Toland Lacy
Office of the Attorney General
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

*Tanner Wolffram
American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza, 29th Floor
Post Office Box 16631
Columbus, OH 43216

*W. Mitchell Hall, Jr.
VanAntwerp Attorneys, LLP
1544 Winchester Avenue, 5th Floor
P. O. Box 1111
Ashland, KY 41105-1111