

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** Karen KING  
**Subject:** RE: 2025-00257.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 4:00:00 PM

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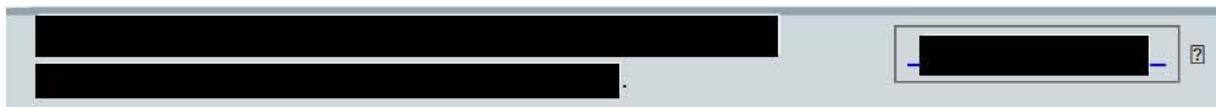
Case No. 2025-00257

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

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Karen KING [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 2:42 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** 2025-00257.



2025-00257. Case Number

I may not know what I'm talking about.

Investors that purchase aep bonds- were these a wise choice with payouts? Bonds have ratings too. Any new bonds aep sells, are they attractive to investors. Bonds may not be a popular choice at this time.

Alternative ways to create electricity - home wind mills, portable solar panels to install on roofs. Can consumers sell electric to AEP? Are These possibilities? Does AEP help consumers set up or inform

customers with details on windmills/solar panels.

Karen King

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** "Gehringer, Brooke"  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Concern Over AEP Kentucky Monopoly and Unaffordable Electric Rates  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 1:54:00 PM

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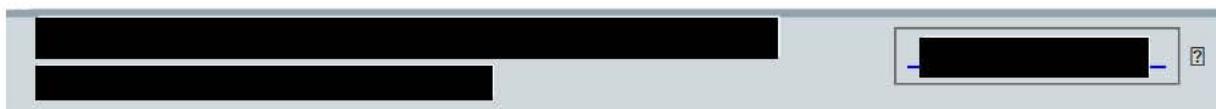
Case No. 2025-00257

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**From:** Gehringer, Brooke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 10:40 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** Urgent Concern Over AEP Kentucky Monopoly and Unaffordable Electric Rates



Case number is 2025-00257

I am writing as a hard-working Kentucky resident from Ashland in Boyd County to express serious concern regarding the ongoing and proposed electric rate increases by AEP Kentucky and the financial strain these increases are placing on working families.

I have lived in my home since 2014. Over the past ten years, my electric bill has increased by approximately 231.2%. When I first moved into my home, my electric bill typically ranged from \$60–\$100 in the winter and \$100–\$250 in the summer. Today, I do not receive a bill below \$250 at any point during the year, regardless of season or usage.

Both my husband and I work full-time in good-paying jobs, yet we are struggling to afford basic utilities. If households like ours are feeling this level of financial pressure, it is clear that many others—especially seniors, families, and those on fixed incomes—are facing even greater hardship.

What makes this situation especially troubling is that AEP Kentucky holds a monopoly over electric service in our area. We do not have the option to switch providers if prices become unreasonable. Electricity is not a service people can simply go without, and there are no alternative companies to turn to. AEP knows this, and it appears they are profiting from the lack of consumer choice, leaving residents with no protection from excessive and repeated increases.

Now, AEP Kentucky is proposing yet another rate increase of 14.9% to 18%, on top of rates that are already unaffordable. This is unacceptable.

**Electricity is a basic necessity, not a luxury.** Families cannot choose to go without heat, cooling, or power in order to survive.

At this point, these actions feel less like reasonable cost recovery and more like price gouging, made possible by monopoly control. People simply cannot afford to live under these conditions. There must be a stop to these increases, and frankly, there should be serious consideration given to reducing electric rates, not raising them yet again.

I am asking for your leadership and intervention to:

- Stop or reject further electric rate increases
- Demand transparency and accountability from AEP Kentucky
- Address monopoly abuse and protect consumers
- Ensure that essential utilities remain affordable for Kentucky families

Kentuckians deserve fair and reasonable electric rates that reflect real household incomes and economic realities—not endless increases that push people closer to financial crisis.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter. I respectfully ask that you take action to protect the people you represent.

Sincerely,

Brooke Gehringer

A Concerned Constituent

Boyd County, Kentucky

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** "Suzanne Griffith"  
**Subject:** RE: 2024-00257  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 1:53:00 PM

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Case No. 2025-00257

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

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Suzanne Griffith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 12:48 PM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** 2024-00257



Dear PSC Commissioners and AG Coleman,

Below are statistics that I gathered in the fall of 2025 from PSC records comparing Kentucky Power's rates to other service providers in the state in terms of industrial rates, residential rates, and commercial rates. I am sending this to you because I felt more information was needed than Witness Wolffram provided in his testimony before you on Jan. 14, 2026.

Since the time these records were compiled another charge of approximately \$2.33 was added to residential rates in Dec. of 2025. I am not sure how much the new charge impacts commercial and industrial customers.

I also attached the 2009 rates (last year before the BIG rate hikes kicked in) for comparison.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Barker Griffith

Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Service Commission  
INDUSTRIAL ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS - 2024

Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. 0.0982

Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc. 0.086

Salt River Electric Cooperative Corp. 0.0834

Kentucky Power Company 0.0832 (In July of 2025 Kentucky Power added a 6.37% securitization rider and now they have proposed a 15% industrial rate hike. The new rate would be 0.09591, the additional 6.37% rider would make the Kentucky Power industrial bill the among the highest in the state. In addition another rider was added was added on Oct. 15 per court order.)

Cumberland Valley Electric, Inc. 0.0779

Inter-County Energy Cooperative Corporation 0.075

Louisville Gas and Electric Company 0.0752

Blue Grass Energy Cooperative Corp. 0.0746

Taylor County R.E.C.C. 0.0769

Kentucky Utilities Company 0.0717

Big Rivers Electric Corporation 0.0685

Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, Inc. 0.0643

Licking Valley R.E.C.C. 0.0635

Big Sandy R.E.C.C 0.6146

Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc. 0.0608

Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation 0.0519

Meade County R.E.C.C. 0.0412

2023 rates of companies NOT YET ON THE 2024 STATISTICAL REPORT

South Kentucky R.E.C.C 0.0999

Farmers R.E.C.C. 0.096

Shelby Energy Cooperative, Inc. 0.0838

Grayson R.E.C.C. 0.0836

Jackson Energy Cooperative Corporation 0.0822

Nolin R.E.C.C 0.0687

Kenergy Corp. 0.0505

Information unavailable for East Kentucky Power Cooperative

Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Service Commission  
ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS - 2024 - Residential Rates

Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation 0.1564

Kentucky Power Company 0.1507 (The 14.9% increase would make the new rate 0.1732 which would be the highest in the state and Kentucky Power has a 6.37% securitization charge added to customers bills which began in July of 2025. In addition another rider was added per court order on Oct.15 adding approximately \$5.97 to monthly bills for 22 months)

Meade County R.E.C.C. 0.1427

Licking Valley R.E.C.C. 0.1383

Inter-County Energy Cooperative Corporation 0.1374

Big Sandy R.E.C.C. 0.1369

Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc 0.1344

Taylor County R.E.C.C. 0.1327

Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc. 0.1322

Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, Inc 0.1289

Cumberland Valley Electric, Inc. 0.1287

Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc. 0.1259

Blue Grass Energy Cooperative Corp. 0.1232

Louisville Gas and Electric Company 0.1228

Kentucky Utilities Company 0.1197

Salt River Electric Cooperative Corp 0.1088

2023 rates of companies NOT YET ON THE 2024 STATISTICAL REPORT

Grayson R.E.C.C. 0.1627

Kenergy Corp. 0.1432

Jackson Energy Cooperative Corporation 0.1381

South Kentucky R.E.C.C 0.1318

Nolin R.E.C.C 0.1304

Farmers R.E.C.C. 0.1283

Shelby Energy Cooperative, Inc. 0.1295

Information unavailable for East Kentucky Power Cooperative

Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Service Commission  
ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS - 2024 - Commercial

Meade County R.E.C.C. 0.1397

Kentucky Power 0.1328 (A 13% rate hike would put the new rate at 0.150064, in addition another 6.37% was added in July of 2025 due to a securitization rider. Kentucky Power service area commercial bills would be among the highest in the state if this rate hike is approved. Another rider was approved on Oct. 15 in order for KPCO to recover \$14.9 million adding approximately another \$15 a month for 22 months)

Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation 0.1304

Cumberland Valley Electric, Inc. 0.13

Taylor County R.E.C.C. 0.1277

Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc. 0.1267

Licking Valley R.E.C.C 0.1248

Inter-County Energy Cooperative Corporation 0.1239

Kentucky Utilities Company 0.1216

Louisville Gas and Electric Company 0.1159

Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc. 0.1146

Blue Grass Energy Cooperative Corp. 0.1145

Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc 0.1071.

Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, Inc. 0.1069

Salt River Electric Cooperative Corp 0.1037

Big Sandy R.E.C.C 0.033

2023 rates of companies NOT YET ON THE 2024 STATISTICAL REPORT

Grayson R.E.C.C. 0.1629

South Kentucky R.E.C.C 0.1511

Kenergy Corp. 0.1313

Jackson Energy Cooperative Corporation 0.1254

Farmers R.E.C.C. 0.1222

Nolin R.E.C.C 0.1146

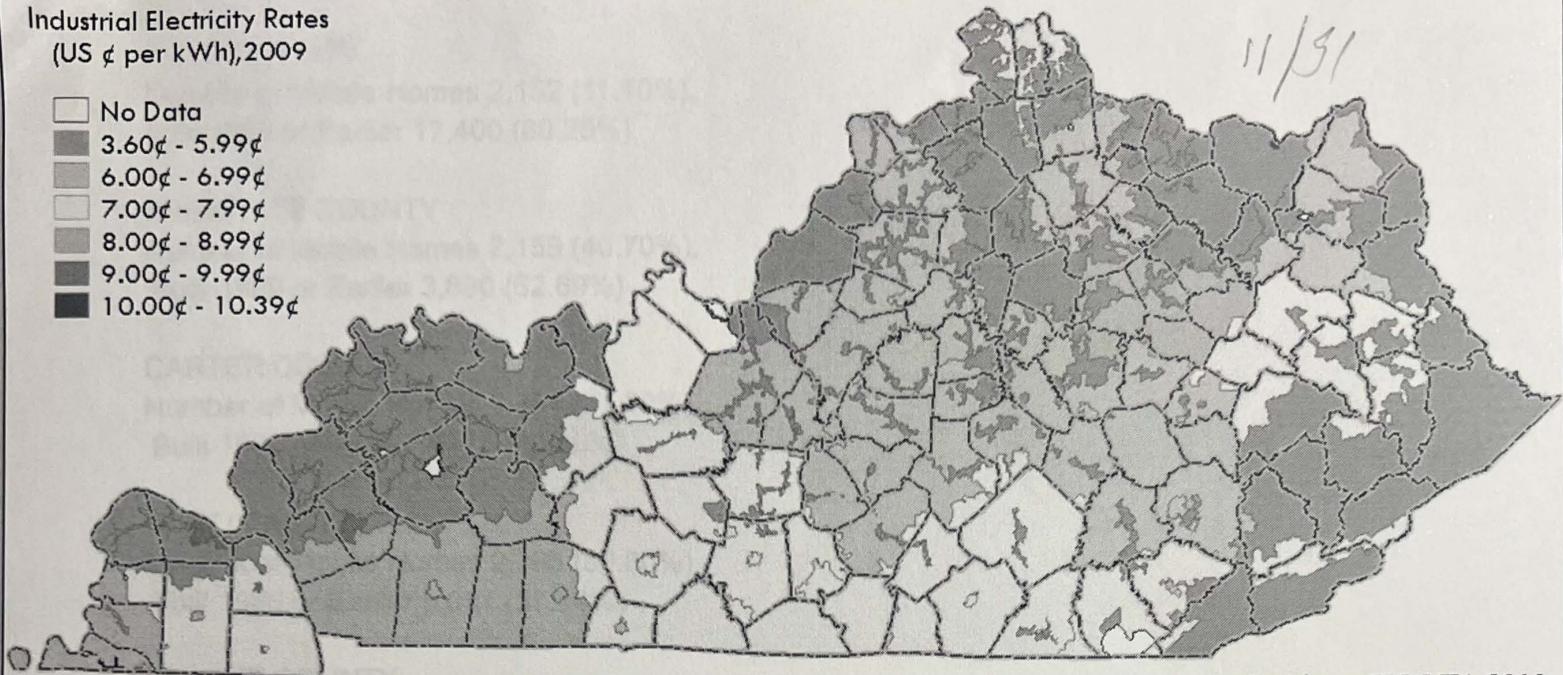
Shelby Energy Cooperative, Inc.0.1055

Information unavailable for East Kentucky Power Cooperative

# Industrial Electricity Rates, 2009

Industrial Electricity Rates  
(US ¢ per kWh), 2009

- No Data
- 3.60¢ - 5.99¢
- 6.00¢ - 6.99¢
- 7.00¢ - 7.99¢
- 8.00¢ - 8.99¢
- 9.00¢ - 9.99¢
- 10.00¢ - 10.39¢



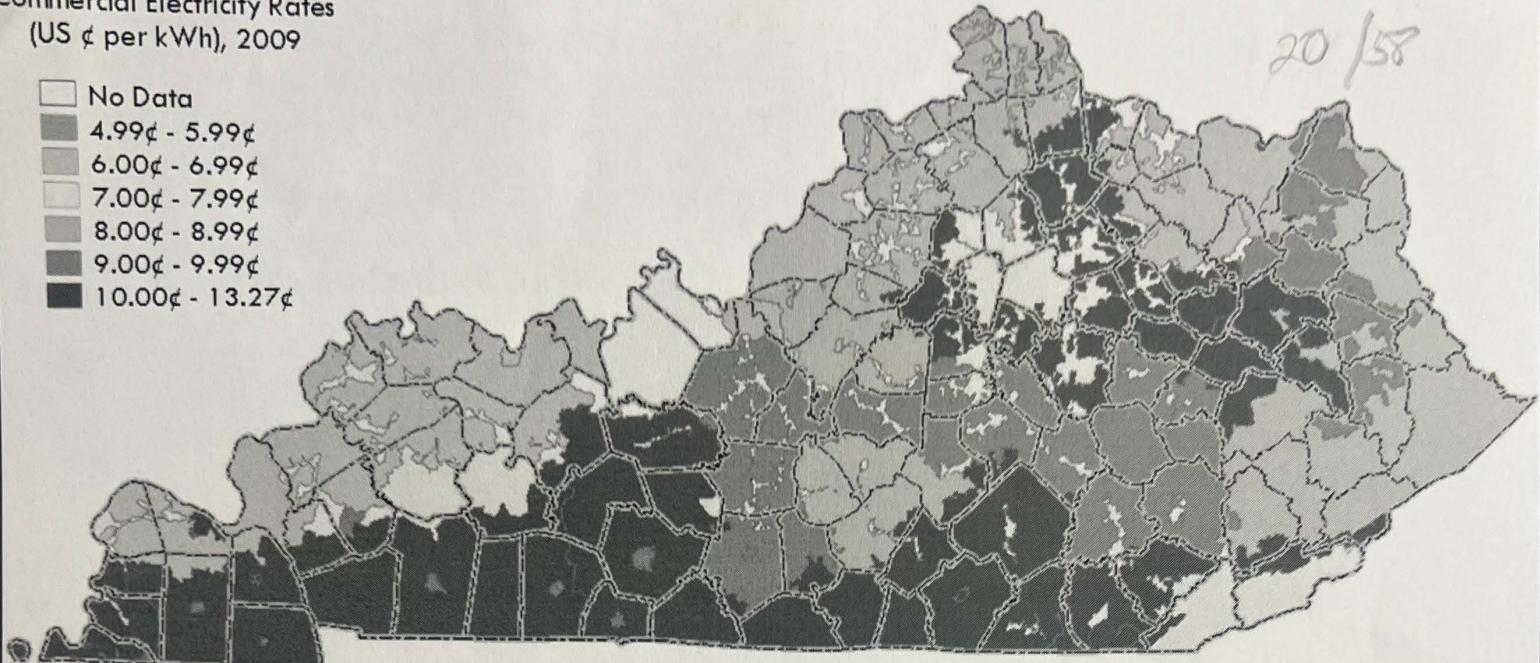
Kentucky Energy Database, EEC-DEDI, 2010

Kenergy Corporation	3.60¢	Shelby ECC	6.72¢
City of Benham	3.75¢	City of Franklin	6.84¢
City of Bardstown	4.03¢	Jackson ECC	6.86¢
Corbin City Utilities Commission	4.14¢	Duke Energy Kentucky	7.15¢
Tennessee Valley Authority	4.30¢	City of Murray	7.21¢
Owen ECC	4.59¢	City of Glasgow	7.24¢
Henderson City Utility Commission	4.81¢	West Kentucky RECC	7.32¢
Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation	5.09¢	Farmers RECC	7.42¢
Louisville Gas & Electric	5.14¢	Tri-County Electric Member Corporation	7.47¢
City of Nicholasville	5.29¢	City of Bowling Green	7.57¢
Kentucky Power	5.57¢	Cumberland Valley RECC	7.65¢
Kentucky Utilities	5.59¢	South Kentucky RECC	7.75¢
City of Frankfort	5.65¢	Big Sandy RECC	7.76¢
Fleming-Mason ECC	5.87¢	Warren RECC	7.83¢
Barbourville Utility Commission	6.02¢	Licking Valley RECC	7.85¢
City of Paris	6.04¢	Pennyriile RECC	8.01¢
Nolin RECC	6.13¢	City of Russellville	8.11¢
City of Owensboro	6.28¢	City of Fulton	8.48¢
Grayson RECC	6.32¢	Hickman-Fulton Counties RECC	8.52¢
Taylor County RECC	6.43¢	Clark ECC	8.66¢
Blue Grass ECC	6.44¢	City of Mayfield Plant Board	8.72¢
Inter County ECC	6.59¢	City of Princeton	9.24¢
City of Hopkinsville	6.64¢	City of Paducah	9.42¢
City of Berea Municipal Utilities	6.65¢	City of Benton	9.49¢
Salt River ECC	6.69¢	City of Vanceburg	10.39¢
Williamstown Utility Commission	6.71¢		

# Commercial Electricity Rates, 2009

Commercial Electricity Rates  
(US ¢ per kWh), 2009

- No Data
- 4.99¢ - 5.99¢
- 6.00¢ - 6.99¢
- 7.00¢ - 7.99¢
- 8.00¢ - 8.99¢
- 9.00¢ - 9.99¢
- 10.00¢ - 13.27¢



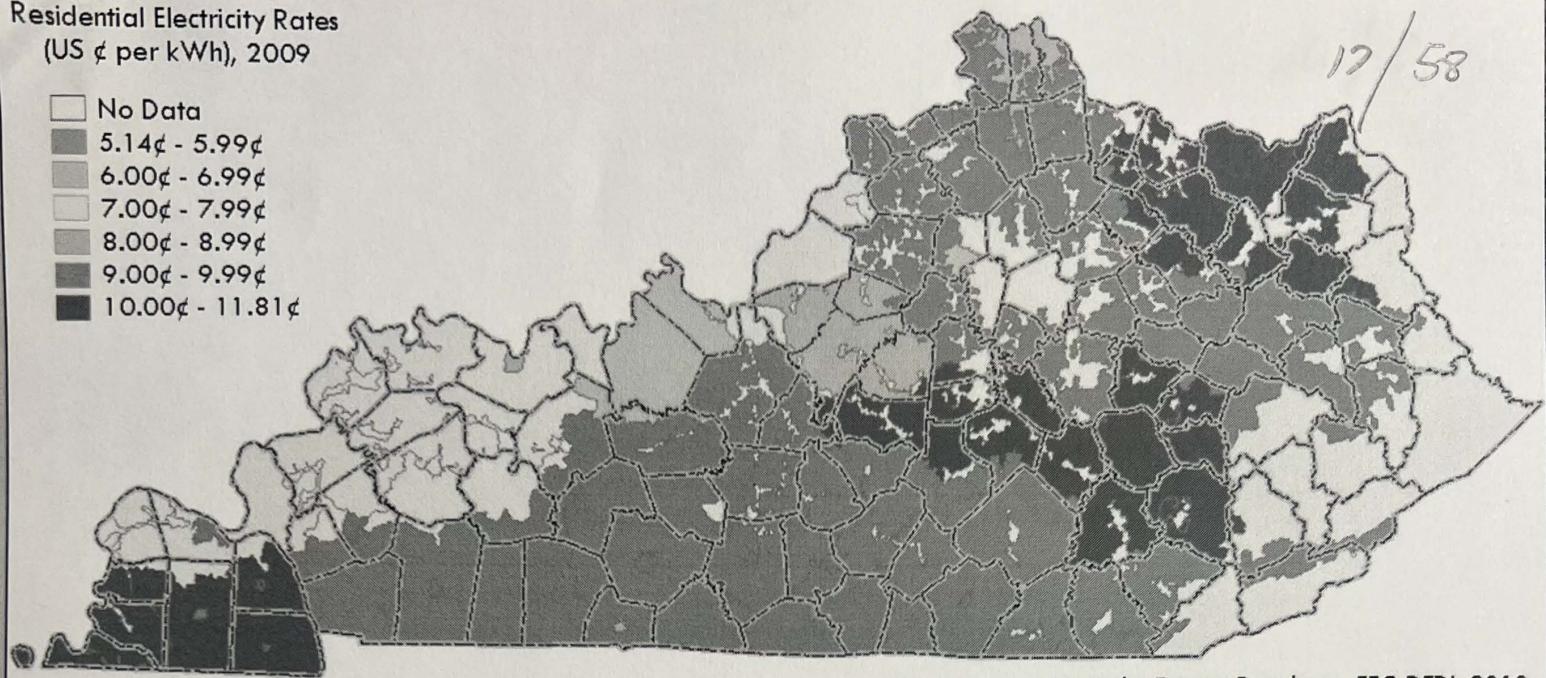
Kentucky Energy Database, EEC-DEDI, 2010

Henderson City Utility Commission	4.99¢	Nolin RECC	9.25¢
Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation	6.08¢	City of Franklin	9.32¢
City of Bardstown	6.08¢	City of Fulton	9.38¢
City of Paris	6.35¢	Jackson ECC	9.48¢
Madisonville Municipal Utilities	6.47¢	City of Mayfield Plant Board	9.53¢
Louisville Gas & Electric	6.75¢	Grayson RECC	9.54¢
City of Owensboro	6.79¢	City of Glasgow	9.60¢
Kenergy Corporation	6.82¢	City of Hopkinsville	9.67¢
City of Nicholasville	7.02¢	City of Russellville	9.74¢
Kentucky Utilities	7.02¢	City of Murray	9.81¢
City of Frankfort	7.12¢	City of Princeton	9.89¢
City of Berea Municipal Utilities	7.15¢	Inter County ECC	9.99¢
Meade County RECC	7.16¢	City of Benton	10.02¢
Barbourville Utility Commission	7.28¢	Blue Grass ECC	10.13¢
City of Benham	7.29¢	Williamstown Utility Commission	10.21¢
City of Bardwell	7.63¢	Cumberland Valley RECC	10.23¢
Corbin City Utilities Commission	7.79¢	Clark ECC	10.24¢
City of Providence	7.91¢	City of Vanceburg	10.39¢
Duke Energy Kentucky	8.09¢	Licking Valley RECC	10.39¢
Kentucky Power	8.16¢	Tri-County Electric Member Corporation	10.40¢
Taylor County RECC	8.40¢	Warren RECC	10.74¢
City of Falmouth	8.47¢	South Kentucky RECC	10.83¢
Shelby ECC	8.49¢	Pennyriple RECC	10.98¢
Fleming-Mason ECC	8.65¢	City of Paducah	11.12¢
Salt River ECC	8.69¢	City of Olive Hill	11.19¢
Owen ECC	8.73¢	City of Jellico	11.54¢
Big Sandy RECC	9.07¢	Hickman-Fulton Counties RECC	12.78¢
City of Bowling Green	9.09¢	West Kentucky RECC	12.81¢
Farmers RECC	9.13¢	City of Hickman	13.27¢

# Residential Electricity Rates, 2009

Residential Electricity Rates  
(US ¢ per kWh), 2009

- No Data
- 5.14¢ - 5.99¢
- 6.00¢ - 6.99¢
- 7.00¢ - 7.99¢
- 8.00¢ - 8.99¢
- 9.00¢ - 9.99¢
- 10.00¢ - 11.81¢



Kentucky Energy Database, EEC-DEDI, 2010

Henderson City Utility Commission	5.14¢	South Kentucky RECC	9.32¢
City of Paris	6.39¢	City of Russellville	9.38¢
City of Nicholasville	6.43¢	Farmers RECC	9.41¢
City of Frankfort	6.45¢	City of Glasgow	9.49¢
City of Bardstown	6.89¢	Nolin RECC	9.50¢
Meade County RECC	6.99¢	City of Paducah	9.52¢
Jackson Purchase Energy Corporation	7.03¢	Tri-County Electric Member Corporation	9.54¢
Kenergy Corporation	7.07¢	Clark ECC	9.58¢
City of Benham	7.15¢	Warren RECC	9.58¢
City of Berea Municipal Utilities	7.20¢	City of Jellico	9.64¢
City of Bardwell	7.26¢	City of Murray	9.65¢
Kentucky Utilities	7.31¢	Big Sandy RECC	9.72¢
Barbourville Utility Commission	7.48¢	Licking Valley RECC	9.81¢
Louisville Gas & Electric	7.58¢	Blue Grass ECC	9.82¢
City of Falmouth	7.75¢	Pennyroyal RECC	9.85¢
Madisonville Municipal Utilities	7.81¢	City of Mayfield Plant Board	9.90¢
Kentucky Power Co	7.93¢	City of Princeton	9.92¢
Williamstown Utility Commission	8.10¢	Owen ECC	9.94¢
Corbin City Utilities Commission	8.15¢	City of Olive Hill	10.13¢
City of Owensboro	8.46¢	Fleming-Mason ECC	10.15¢
Duke Energy Kentucky	8.74¢	City of Fulton	10.20¢
City of Providence	8.76¢	City of Benton	10.39¢
City of Franklin	8.79¢	Inter County ECC	10.39¢
Salt River ECC	8.81¢	Jackson ECC	10.45¢
City of Bowling Green	9.08¢	City of Vanceburg	10.52¢
City of Hopkinsville	9.08¢	Grayson RECC	11.02¢
Taylor County RECC	9.16¢	City of Hickman	11.04¢
Shelby ECC	9.22¢	West Kentucky RECC	11.17¢
Cumberland Valley RECC	9.26¢	Hickman-Fulton Counties RECC	11.81¢

**From:** [PSC Public Comment](#)  
**To:** "Suzanne Griffith"  
**Subject:** RE: 2025-00257  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 1:53:00 PM

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Case No. 2025-00257

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**From:** Suzanne Griffith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 11:52 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** 2025-00257



Dear PSC Commissioners and AG Coleman,

This is a portion of testimony that Rocky Adkins gave to the PSC in 2013 in CASE NO. 2012-00578 when decisions of decommissioning of Big Sandy were going on, "APPALACHIAN POWER WILL OPERATE THE MITCHELL PLANT AND THOSE CONTRACT DECISIONS FOR COAL SUPPLIES, COAL TRANSPORTATION AND VENDOR PURCHASES WILL BE MADE BY APPALACHIAN POWER NOT KENTUCKY POWER. IF BIG SANDY UNIT 2 IS RETIRED, KENTUCKY POWER RATE PAYERS WILL PROBABLY BE ASKED TO PAY THE COST OF SHUTTING IT DOWN AND I'M SURE ANY LONG TERM DEBT INCURRED FOR BIG SANDY WILL REMAIN IN KENTUCKY POWER'S RATES. BUT KENTUCKY RATE PAYERS WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HAVING THAT GENERATION HERE IN KENTUCKY.

8% VERSUS A 31% RATE INCREASE? I'M NOT AN ACCOUNTANT AND CERTAINLY NOT A PAID UTILITY CONSULTANT, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE MATH BEING PUT FORTH BETWEEN THESE TWO PROPOSALS. HOW COULD \$536 MILLION FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE MITCHELL ASSETS RESULT IN AN 8% RATE INCREASE, WHILE THE PROJECTED COSTS TO SCRUB BIG SANDY UNIT 2 OF \$940 MILLION RESULTS IN A 31% RATE INCREASE? IF YOU DOUBLE THE COST OF THE MITCHELL ASSET TRANSFER TO \$1.72 BILLION, THAT SHOULD RESULT IN A 16% RATE INCREASE WHICH WOULD MORE THAN COVER THE COST OF SCRUBBING BIG SANDY UNIT 2."

Since that time rates are up 61% (.0934 in 2013 and .1507 currently) and the rate hike would make that just over 85%. In addition, another 6.37% was added to customers' bills for the "securitized" surcharge related to the decommissioning of Big Sandy 2.

When Big Sandy 2 was decommissioned, we lost 150 power jobs, approximately 500 mining jobs, 200 coal trucks a day that went in and out of Louisa, and too many vendor jobs to count, along with all local and state taxes, and millions in coal sales. We also had to take on 1/2 of Mitchell's liabilities.

To say EKY got the short end of the stick is an understatement.

In the current rate case, Kentucky Power is using population and industry losses as reasons to raise rates without acknowledging how their own actions and decisions contributed to those losses.

To make matters worse, one of the cooling towers at Mitchell is damaged and will need to be replaced or repaired. This will be \$3.5 million or \$3.7 million to address, according to PSC records, with ratepayers footing the bill.

More from Rocky's comment to the PSC in 2013, "RECENT PRESS RELEASES BY SOME OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THAT WERE PARTIES TO THE RECENT MODIFICATION TO THE 2007 CONSENT DECREE INDICATE THAT AEP HAS SAID IT WILL SHUT DOWN BIG SANDY UNIT 2. MAYBE THAT'S A DECISION THAT AEP HAS SHARED WITH THEM BUT NOT KENTUCKY'S RATE PAYERS. THE RECENT WRITTEN MODIFICATIONS TO THE CONSENT DECREE DO NOT APPEAR TO REFLECT ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. TWELVE STATES WERE PARTIES TO THE ORIGINAL 2007 CONSENT DECREE. KENTUCKY WAS NOT.

BECAUSE KENTUCKY WAS NOT A PARTY, I BELIEVE OUR OBLIGATION SHOULD BE TO KENTUCKY AND KENTUCKY RATE PAYERS. MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, DESPITE THE ASSERTION THAT TRANSFERRING THE ASSETS OF MITCHELL IS A LEAST COST OPTION; THIS IS NOT A DECISION THAT IS BEING MADE FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF KENTUCKY AND ITS RATE PAYERS. THIS IS A CORPORATE DECISION TO MOVE GENERATION ASSETS FROM OHIO'S DEREGULATED MARKET, WHERE THEY ONLY GET MARKET PRICES FOR POWER TO REGULATED MARKETS IN KENTUCKY AND WEST VIRGINIA WHERE STATE LAW ALLOWS THEM TO RECOVER ALL THEIR OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSES, PLUS A GUARANTEED RATE OF RETURN. KENTUCKY POWER'S CURRENT ALLOWED RATE OF RETURN IS 10.5%. AEP OR OHIO POWER COULD NOT GET THAT SORT OF RETURN IN THE CURRENT PJM MARKET."

The PSC should have listened to Rocky Adkins in 2013. Today, you should deny any rate hikes and let Kentucky Power handle the consequences of the decisions they

made internally, while also seeking economic development to support the influx of the cash they say they need. It can be done.

The truth is, ratepayers have more than done enough in this fiasco.

While we cannot go back to 2013, good decisions and not “least bad decisions” can be made in this current rate case.

Respectfully,  
. Suzanne Barker Griffith  
Ashland, KY

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**Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 1:53:00 PM

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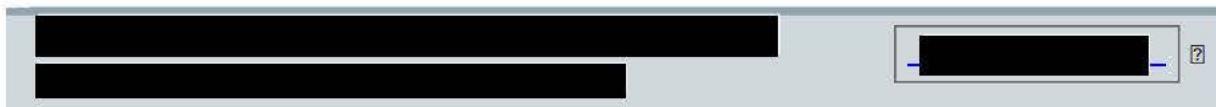
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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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**From:** Suzanne Griffith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026 8:58 AM  
**To:** PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>  
**Subject:** 2025-00257



Dear PSC Commissioners and AG Coleman,

I submit the letter to the editor by Kathy Chamis, published Jan. 12, 2026, in The Daily Independent, and the op-ed by Alvin Blanton, published Jan. 14, 2026, in The Daily Independent, as material to review in Case Number 2025-00257.

Both speak volumes.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Barker Griffith  
Ashland, KY

# When the lights go up but the income doesn't

## A Kentuckian's plea to the Public Service Commission

I am 86 years old, and I am living in the same home I built with my own hands in 1970. Back then, Kentucky Power placed me on a \$37 monthly budget plan — their number, not mine. I trusted their system. I paid every month. I did everything a responsible customer is supposed to do.

Today, that same plan is \$343.30 a month — an 830.5% increase.

In that same time, my pension has increased zero percent.

On Jan. 8, 2026, the Kentucky Public Service Commission held a public hearing in Ashland to discuss Kentucky Power's request for a 14.9% rate increase (Case No. 2025-00257). I could not attend because I have been fighting the flu. But illness does not silence the truth, and it does not stop the bills. So I submitted my testimony in writing, because the stakes for thousands of Kentuckians could not be higher.

I worked 42 years at Armco Steel. I paid every bill, every month, through layoffs, recessions, and hard winters. I never imagined that after a lifetime of work, I would be fighting simply to keep the lights on in the home I built.

And I am not speaking only for myself.

I speak for widows and widowers whose Armco survivor pensions drop to about \$140

a month because their Social Security check offsets the pension. I speak for retirees, like me, whose pensions are based on wages earned in the 1950s and 1960s — years when pay was modest, families were large, and every cent

mattered. I speak for disabled neighbors and working families who are already stretched to the breaking point.

These people cannot stand at a microphone. They cannot travel to hearings. They asked me to carry their voices, and flu or no flu, I am keeping that promise.

This rate increase request follows years of decisions that placed the burden on the very people Kentucky Power now wants more money from:

- The costly Big Sandy Plant conversion
- Years of high fuel expenses
- Planning missteps
- Inefficient, overpriced fuel-purchasing practices

Independent experts hired by the Attorney General and industrial customers found nearly \$17 million in over-charges.

Refunds do not erase the strain.

Refunds do not rebuild trust.

Refunds do not justify asking struggling families to pay more.

I asked the Commissioners to picture someone they love — a parent, a grandparent, an aunt or uncle — living on a fixed income. Then imagine looking them in the eye and telling them their electric bill is going up again, even though their income is not.

If you could not say that to your own family with a clear conscience, you should not say it to mine.

People like us — steelworkers, miners, railroad workers, teachers, nurses — built the economy that Kentucky Power depends on. We kept the lights on in this state for generations. We paid every bill, every month, even when it hurt.

All we are asking now is simple: Do not turn the lights off on the people who kept them on for you.

Because when a family can't afford electricity, something far more important goes dark.

And what goes dark is dignity.

I hope the Public Service Commission will remember the people behind the meters — the people who built this region, who powered its industries, who raised their families here, and who deserve better than to be asked to pay for mistakes they did not make.



**ALVIN BLANTON**

**ALVIN BLANTON**, retired Armco Steel/USW, is a regularly contributing columnist. Reach the Catlettsburg resident at [retiredrigger@aol.com](mailto:retiredrigger@aol.com).

## IN YOUR VIEW

### Tripped up by power bill

Recently I received my Kentucky Power bill of almost \$1,000. I am very diligent to pay my bills on time every month so I called an agent to see if this was a misprint.

She told me it was my “anniversary” bill and I told her I was a widow ... no anniversary for me; maybe Kentucky Power was celebrating.

The agent was very kind and understanding. She lives in the Tri-State and could sympathize with the ratepayers as she is one herself.

My monthly bills do not amount to \$1,000 to include house, car, cable and medical insurances!

Every time an article on Kentucky Power appears in the newspaper, I very calmly get up from the table, tear the article up and put it in

the trash. Along with many other ratepayers, we've heard all the justifications and we're not buying it. I have written to everyone except President Trump about how we are slammed by high Kentucky Power rates.

I wrote my check out. I work every day being way past retirement age. And like the old saying goes, “I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go.”

My first New Year's resolution in 2026 was not to become rattled about anything in life and I'm sticking to that so I can continue to enjoy my four beautiful grandchildren no matter what and continue to maintain my good health. My sons make sure I stay in my home as we have many beautiful memories and the grandchildren love to visit Ashland and all it has to offer young children.

In my view, it just may be time for Kentucky Power to have a “come to Jesus meet-

ing” because “people are always more important than profits.”

We are no longer amused.

**Kathy Chamis**  
Ashland

### Letters invited

*The Daily Independent* invites readers to submit In Your View letters on public issues.

Letters must not exceed 300 words and must include the name, address and telephone number of the author.

Words of Thanks letters are limited to no more than 150 words. *The Daily Independent* cannot guarantee a day of publication for letters, but makes an effort to publish letters in a timely manner.

The newspaper is not obligated to print every letter it receives.

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