

Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2025-00257  
Response Tuesday, February 24, 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 \(ky.gov\)](#).

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Received through Public Comments

Sunday, February 22, 2026

From: William Madden  
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Comments:

I know this is past due but some of my points might be of use later, I was in the hospital for most of December and never got my two cents in. Since the Ky Power rate hearing was largely dependent on securitization I think another hearing is likely. In talking to Senator Brandon Smith he plans to fight the securitization and may propose a bill that will not be favorable to Ky Power.

I have said for years that accountants can make you rich today for one purpose and a pauper tomorrow for another purpose. Much of the hearing seemed to follow this wisdom. Accountants convoluted the numbers in the testimony to the point I'm not sure who could follow it. Would it be so hard to say from 2020 through 2025 give me the years receipts and the years expenses and leave all the bs out of it?

Much of Ky Powers proposals revolved around securitization. Senator Smith has discussed this issue with me and asked for comments. He is not a fan and after reading Ky Powers securitization proposal and listening to their testimony I can say from what I understand I'm no fan either. My understanding is they want to extend guaranteed money streams and bond them. My first problem is if you're not making more profit than your expenses you're just kicking the can down the road hoping for population increases or a data center to keep you out of bankruptcy. Secondly they wrote the proposal strictly for Ky Power, they should have included the other utility operators and written a comprehensive plan. Third the idea of securitization based on variable cash flows and having the State back it up so they can get lower interest rates just seems ludicrous. My house and property are collateral for my loans; Ky Power needs to have some skin in the game and use property or tangible assets for collateral. In my talks with Senator Smith we're wondering at what amount of guaranteed securitized monies will Ky Power look enticing enough to sell. I've talked to Duke, KU/LGE and a few others at different conferences about purchasing Ky Power and they just laugh because there's not enough power generation or profit to interest them. I'm not sure even a Co-Op would bite on taking it over.

Following are comments on Ky Powers assertions that they have cut every cost they can.

Vegetation management was not an issue for many years. At what point Ky Power quit managing it I don't know. When I was young the best summer jobs were working for the Power Company cutting vegetation. The fact they intentionally or unintentionally lost control of clearing lines is not the rate payer's fault. It's hard for me to hear Ky Power say we need millions from the rate payers because of storms where most of the damage was caused by

trees falling. They should eat that cost because of their negligence. They damn sure should not get paid twice. Eat the storm cost or the clearing cost. The California electric company is facing billions in potential claims from the last 2 large fires reportedly caused by their lines or equipment. Aspen does the tree cutting in this area. They clearcut everything, grind up what they have to if they're on the highway or around houses. The bigger stuff they leave laying. I've seen people parked half in the road and ditch cutting firewood from what's been left lying. If this causes a wreck for someone gets hurt or killed sawing the wood that shouldn't have been left, who holds the liability? Many of these trees are on Transportation R/W, they should have a permit with the Cabinet and I'd be surprised if leaving fallen trees are permitted. I'm pretty sure testimony from the hearing was that Ky Power has vegetation management personnel, I'd like to know what they get paid for.

Subcontractors are a problem with vegetation, electrical work and traffic control. Elliot Electrical does the sub work for Ky Power. Ky Power, Elliot and Aspen all use 3rd party traffic control. At one time Ky Power did all this work. The problem I have with subs is that you use them for short durations or specialty work. They are usually paid a higher fee for this work. When they are used year round you end up paying more for services than you pay your own people. And if you don't have an inspector with them you never know how much work you're getting for your (ratepayer) money. A couple years ago Ky Power was at my neighbor's house so I went back to see if they would look at a dust to dawn light that had quit working. There was a lineman and his supervisor there, two trucks. They were waiting for someone from Aspen to come cut a few bushes. Aspen had clearcut under the line and left a ten foot strip of brush and saplings you could easily walk through. I talked to an Aspen worker recently and asked him about Ky Power not cutting anything. He said they weren't allowed to have a chainsaw or ax. I don't know if that's a policy, contract issue or what but it sure costs a lot in lost production. These issues are simply me pointing out if a company wants to say they've cut every cost possible you need to talk to some of the rank and file, the supervisors and accountants I'm sure never worked in the field.

There was a lot said about Ky Power's loss on buying gas for the Big Sandy plant. Losing or making money in this instance is not as important as making sure you have gas flowing. I'm not sure how much the plant uses or how much the transmission line carries but as was discussed without storage you really have put all your eggs in one basket. If the line goes down or someone comes in and contracts the gas out from under you what do you do? I suggested to Ky Power that they put in at least two smaller plants if they can find another transmission line to use. This lessens the impact of a gas shortage but unfortunately does nothing to stabilize gas costs.

Another point was the exceptionally large number of high electric bills. People here live in trailers, storage buildings, campers and houses that are a hundred years old. To have a thousand dollar electric bill has to go beyond needing insulation. At one time people would buy a storage building and have Ky power run power to it, then they would hook up a house or trailer to it because they didn't have a septic system, then let the building be repossessed. There are also a lot of people that will run several residences off 1 pole or have a garage or other building hooked up. The only way to determine the high electric bill issue is to have Ky Power review each service in its area. Does this cost, of course it does but it should be done.

I saw a month or so ago that Ky Power was planning to sell excess electricity to the market and listed the Mitchel plant as part of the generation sale. If AEP has excess electricity then why does Ky Power rate payers need to prop up the Mitchel plant?

Last week I saw the reason for the sale; AEP purchased 750 MW of market power for data center growth that did not materialize. FERC told them to suck it up and eat it, they would not allow them to sell their own generated power to cover their screwup. So either AEP shuts down 750 MW of generation or tries to pass a rate increase across its subsidiaries. First to close

will be WV coal plants with Mitchel being the most likely because of its output. Why put monies towards a coal plant that will be the first to be closed. An article I read recently week said all 3 WV coal plants would probably shut down in a few years due to their output capacity. That's a lot less than the 2040 or beyond date Ky Power promised.

Lastly many people are switching or adding coal, wood, gas, kerosene, solar or other sources to heat their houses. This means the higher the rates the more people find alternative means or leave the area. This causes another rate case because profit must be made. With no clear new development or power consumers Ky Power is like the snake eating its tail. AEP needs to sell Ky Power or it needs to be turned into a non-profit or co-op.

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