

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION TO CONSIDER)	
DEVIATION OF REGULATION 807 KAR 5:041,)	CASE NO.
SECTION 7, VOLTAGE SURVEYS AND)	2025-00131
RECORDS)	

ORDER

The Commission, on its own motion, initiates this administrative proceeding to consider how to address regulatory deviations with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and automated meter reading (AMR) technology as they relate to voltage surveys outlined in 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7. The Commission finds that all utilities providing electric service should be made a party to this proceeding, to participate in this matter either individually or jointly. Utilities that seek to participate jointly are asked to file notice in this case indicating as such. Filings in this matter must be made by attorneys licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. However, participation by entities either in meetings or in filing comments may be conducted by non-attorneys. The Commission encourages other parties interested in the proceedings to express their opinions through the submission of public comments.

The purpose of this proceeding will be to consider deviations to administrative regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7, for utilities providing electric service who have installed AMI or AMR technology capabilities to meet the requirements for voltage surveys and records. If a deviation is adopted, the deviation will remain in effect until the regulation can be updated.

BACKGROUND

Typically, the Commission receives a request for deviation from a utility prior to the Commission considering granting a deviation; however, in circumstances where an issue impacts several utilities, the Commission may address the issue more broadly. For electric utilities with AMI or AMR meters, the vast majority of their customers participate in their AMI or AMR meter program; however, many of the cooperatives have customer opt out provisions from AMI or AMR, should a customer choose to do so.¹ A letter dated November 7, 2024, was received by the Division of Inspections, Electrical Inspectors from Owen Electric Cooperative, Inc., proposing a process change which, if implemented, allegedly would continue to accomplish the goals of the administrative regulations, while increasing efficiency to the overall process of inspections and compliance. The letter is attached as Appendix A to this Order.

LEGAL STANDARD

The Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of rates and service of utilities in Kentucky.² Pursuant to KRS 278.042, the Commission shall prescribe the service adequacy and safety standards for electric utilities, as stated in the Commission's administrative regulations, orders, and in the most recent edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).³ In addition, in keeping with KRS Chapter 13A, the Commission may adopt reasonable regulations and investigate the methods and practices of utilities

¹ Case No. 2022-00357, *Electronic Tariff filing of Salt River Electric Cooperative Corp. to Implement an Advanced Metering System (AMS) Opt-Out Tariff for Residential Customers* (Ky. PSC Mar. 7, 2023), Order.

² KRS 278.042(2).

³ KRS 278.042(2).

to require them to conform to the laws of this state, and to all reasonable rules, regulations and orders of the commission not contrary to law.⁴

DISCUSSION

As noted above, the Commission finds it should initiate this administrative proceeding to consider how to address regulatory deviations with AMI or AMR technology for all electric utilities as they relate to voltage surveys outlined in 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7, and that all utilities providing electric service should be made parties hereto. The Commission further finds that a procedural schedule should be established for the orderly processing of this case. The procedural schedule is attached as Appendix B to this Order. Additionally, any hearing scheduled in this matter shall be held on the designated day or days and continued until called from the bench by the presiding officer. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 2, if the hearing is not concluded on the designated day, the hearing may be continued upon verbal announcement by the presiding officer.

A verbal announcement made by the presiding officer shall be proper notice of the continued hearing. Hearings are held in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky. Witnesses who sponsor schedules, testimony, or responses to requests for information are expected to participate in person at a hearing. Witnesses sponsoring schedules, testimony, or responses to requests for information should not be excused, except following the Commission's consideration and granting of a timely motion, including just cause.

Because each utility providing electric service will be made parties to the administrative case and will be asked to file comments as well as respond to the questions

⁴ KRS 278.040(3).

posed herein, the Commission has included Commission Staff's First Request for Information attached as Appendix C to this Order. All parties should respond in a timely fashion to it and any other Request for Information propounded by Commission Staff.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. This proceeding is opened to investigate and address regulatory deviations applicable to electrical service meters with AMI and AMR technology to the requirements of 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7.

2. All utilities providing electric service are made parties to this proceeding.

3. All parties shall follow the procedural schedule set forth as Appendix B.

4. All parties shall respond to the Commission Staff's First Request for Information, attached as Appendix C, by the date set forth in the request.

5. Within seven days of the service date of this Order, counsel shall enter an appearance or appearances.

6. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8(9), within seven days of service of this Order, all utilities providing electric service shall file a written statement with the Commission that:

a. Certifies that it, or its agent, possesses the facilities to receive electronic transmissions; and

b. Sets forth the electronic mail address to which all electronic notices and messages related to this proceeding shall be served.

7. The Commission directs all utilities providing electric service to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085⁵ regarding filings with the Commission. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable, and shall be appropriately bookmarked.

8. Each response shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

9. A party filing a paper containing personal information shall, in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(10), encrypt or redact the paper so that personal information cannot be read.

10. All utilities made a party to this case shall respond to all requests for information propounded by Commission Staff, whether identified on the procedural schedule or otherwise, as provided in those requests.

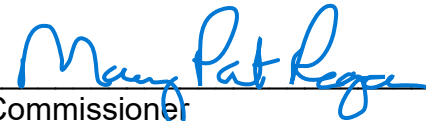
⁵ Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Chairman

Vice Chairman



Commissioner

ATTEST:



Executive Director

ENTERED
JUN 9 2025
jdc
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2025-00131 DATED JUN 9 2025

ONE PAGE TO FOLLOW



11/7/2024

Proposal by Owen Electric to Meet KAR Title 807 Chapter 005 Regulation 041 Section 7 Utilizing RF AMI Meters

Owen Electric (OEC) will finish exchanging its Powerline Carrier (PLC) based Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) electric meters to Radio Frequency (RF) based AMI electric meters in the next few months. With the advanced technology and capabilities of the new RF meters, OEC is proposing a process change which will continue to meet the required KAR, while increasing efficiency to the overall process.

OEC's RF meters record and report various data records throughout each day. The records for active meters are stored within OEC's AMI database for a minimum of 3 years. Data recorded includes on interval, at midnight, on demand, Daily Minimum and Daily Maximum Voltage readings. With these readings being sent in automatically, OEC has a much better view of voltages throughout the entire system as opposed to individual recording voltmeters being manually installed, removed and investigated. OEC's AMI software allows the flexibility to monitor for exceptions, which are sent to personnel for numerous events, including readings that are "out of limits". We currently have several of these types of monitors established for monitoring voltage readings.

OEC is proposing to utilize voltage data from the AMI system to continue meeting the requirements listed in the KAR. To ensure the data received from the meters continues to be accurate OEC is proposing an additional process for comparison to voltage instruments/voltmeters (which are compared to OEC's in-house master voltage standard test equipment). The proposed overview of the process steps is as follows:

1. OEC Field Personnel will check voltage with their voltmeter at a minimum of 1 (one) meter location per phase per circuit throughout the system each year. On circuits that only have 3 (three) phase meters available each phase can be checked individually at the meter.
2. While at each meter location OEC Field Personnel will retrieve an on-demand voltage reading from the meter using the AMI system.
3. Both readings will be recorded and post-visit quality assurance will ensure the readings fall into compliance with the voltage accuracy standards already established.

OEC respectfully seeks approval of this process to more fully utilize its investment in the current AMI system, while maintaining the accuracy of the voltage analysis and maintaining compliance with this KAR.

Kenneth E. Courts
Meter Department Supervisor
Owen Electric Cooperative
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APPENDIX B

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2025-00131 DATED JUN 9 2025

All initial requests for information to Electric Utilities
shall be filed no later than 06/13/2025

Utilities shall file responses to initial requests for
information no later than..... 06/27/2025

All supplemental requests for information to Electric Utilities
shall be filed no later than 07/18/2025

Utilities shall file responses to supplemental requests
for information no later than 08/01/2025

Last day for Parties to request an Informal Conference or submit a
request for the matter be decided based upon the written record 08/08/2025

APPENDIX C

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2025-00131 DATED JUN 9 2025

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES

Each Electric Utility, doing business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, shall file with the Commission an electronic version of the following information. The information requested is due on June 27, 2025. The Commission directs the Electric Utilities to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085¹ regarding filings with the Commission. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable, and shall be appropriately bookmarked.

Each response shall include the question to which the response is made and shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Each Electric Utilities shall make timely amendment to any prior response if the Electric Utility obtains information that indicates the response was incorrect or incomplete

¹ Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

when made or, though correct or complete when made, is now incorrect or incomplete in any material respect.

For any request to which an Electric Utility fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, the Electric Utility shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention shall be given to copied and scanned material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations. When filing a paper containing personal information, each Electric Utility shall, in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(10), encrypt or redact the paper so that personal information cannot be read.

1. State whether the electric utility currently has advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) capabilities in place.
2. State whether the electric utility has AMI equipment and software with the capability to monitor and record voltage of an individual customer over a determined period of time.
3. State whether the utility has other equipment on the system that can also monitor and record voltage.
4. State if the ability to monitor and record voltage of individual customers is as accurate as equipment required by 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7, and if so, state how this is determined.

5. State if the utility intends to perform ongoing tests of the accuracy of the AMI voltage recordings and describe the intended process.

6. State how the tests will be recorded, how long the records for each test will be kept, and if the records will be maintained in a manner that can be inspected by utility customers and the Commission or its staff.

7. Provide an example of what the AMI voltage surveys and recordings look like as recorded by the AMI system, as well as an example of the current voltage surveys and recorders installed at various locations on your system.

8. State if the AMI voltage recording hardware and software have the ability to take continuous readings, or if readings will be taken at set intervals.

9. State whether the AMI system and/or software have the ability to detect exceptions that are out of limits, like voltage limits.

10. State whether the AMI system monitors and/or records other exceptions other than voltage.

11. State whether the electric utility would benefit from a deviation of the requirement in 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7, and if so, in what way.

12. State whether the electric utility will have the ability to satisfy the Commission of its compliance with voltage requirements if a deviation from 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7 is granted, and if so, state how.

13. If a deviation to the requirements of 807 KAR 5:041, Section 7 is granted, state whether the electric utility will still be able to retain all records of the voltage records and surveys taken within the last three calendar years and allow inspection by the utility's customers and the Public Service Commission.

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