

Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2024-00354  
Response Friday, February 20, 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, 2024-00354 in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at: [View Case Filings for: 2024-00354 \(ky.gov\)](#).

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Received through Public Comments

Thursday, February 19, 2026

From: Stephanie Smith  
City: Lakeside park  
State: Ky  
Zip: 41017

Comments:  
Dear Kentucky Public Service Commissioner,

These rising utility costs are becoming unbearable for working families across our state. While Duke Energy continues to report strong profits, the people of Kentucky are being squeezed for every dollar. Many of us are not receiving increases in pay that match the rising cost of living. Families are cutting back on usage while still seeing double bill increases. Families are severely struggling with housing, food, healthcare, and childcare. The added burden of excessive electric and gas is pushing people beyond their limits.

This issue is not just financial. It is directly impacting the mental health and stability of families. Parents are working two or even three jobs simply to keep up. The stress and exhaustion are contributing to a larger mental health crisis. When families are pushed to this level, the long-term consequences for our communities and our children are serious. Consumers did not ask to bear the financial burden of large infrastructure expansions, including those related to new data centers and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. It is not fair or reasonable for everyday families to be forced to subsidize the costs of these projects. Duke Energy should be required to fund its own upgrades and expansions. The Public Service Commission exists to protect the people of Kentucky. I urge you to stand up for consumers and demand greater transparency, accountability, and fairness in how utility rates are determined. There must be stronger oversight to ensure that monopolies are not exploiting their position. Please consider rejecting further rate increases until affordability and consumer impact are fully evaluated, investigate Duke's current billing against usage. Require Duke Energy to demonstrate true financial need before approving any increases, protect consumers from paying for corporate infrastructure and profit-driven expansion. The prioritizing affordability and public well-being over corporate profit has to come first. The people of Kentucky deserve leadership that advocates for them. We need commissioners who will fight for families, for children, and for the long-term health of our communities.

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