

807 KAR 5:056. Fuel adjustment clause.

RELATES TO: KRS 61.870 - 61.884, 143.020, Chapter 278

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 278.030(1), (2), 278.040(3)

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 278.040(3) authorizes the Public Service Commission to promulgate administrative regulations to implement the provisions of KRS Chapter 278. KRS 278.030(1) authorizes utilities to demand, collect, and receive fair, just, and reasonable rates. KRS 278.030(2) requires every utility to furnish adequate, efficient, and reasonable service. This administrative regulation establishes the requirements with respect to the implementation of automatic fuel adjustment clauses by which electric utilities may immediately recover increases in fuel costs subjected to later scrutiny by the Public Service Commission

Section 1. Fuel Adjustment Clause. Fuel adjustment clauses that are not in conformity with the requirements established in subsections (1) through (6) of this section are not in the public interest and may result in suspension of those parts of the rate schedules based on severity of the nonconformity and any history of nonconformity:

(1) The fuel adjustment clause shall provide for periodic adjustment per Kilowatt Hour (KWH) of sales equal to the difference between the fuel costs per KWH sale in the base period and in the current period according to the following formula:

$$\text{Adjustment Factor} = \frac{F(m)}{S(m)} - \frac{F(b)}{S(b)}$$

Where F(b) is the cost of fuel in the base period, F(m) is the cost of fuel in the current period, S(b) is sales in the base period, and S(m) is sales in the current period, all as defined below.

(2) F(b)/S(b) shall be determined so that on the effective date of the commission's approval of the utility's application of the formula, the resultant adjustment shall be equal to zero.

(3) Fuel costs (F) shall be the most recent actual monthly cost, based on weighted average inventory costing, of:

(a) Fossil fuel consumed in the utility's own plants, and the utility's share of fossil and nuclear fuel consumed in jointly owned or leased plants, plus the cost of fuel that would have been used in plants suffering forced generation or transmission outages, but less the cost of fuel related to substitute generation; plus

(b) The actual identifiable fossil and nuclear fuel costs associated with energy purchased for reasons other than as established in paragraph (c) of this subsection, but excluding the cost of fuel related to purchases to substitute for the forced outages; plus

(c) The net energy cost of energy purchases, exclusive of capacity or demand charges irrespective of the designation assigned to the transaction, if the energy is purchased on an economic dispatch basis. Costs, such as the charges for economy energy purchases, the charges as a result of scheduled outage, and other charges for energy being purchased by the buyer to substitute for the buyer's own higher cost energy, may be included; and less

(d) The cost of fossil fuel recovered through intersystem sales, including the fuel costs related to economy energy sales and other energy sold on an economic dispatch basis.

(4) Forced outages are all nonscheduled losses of generation or transmission that require substitute power for a continuous period in excess of six (6) hours. If forced outages are not the result of faulty equipment, faulty manufacture, faulty design, faulty installations, faulty operation, or faulty maintenance, but are Acts of God, riot, insurrection, or acts of the public enemy, then the utility may, upon proper showing, with the approval of the commission, include the fuel cost of substitute energy in the adjustment. In making the calculations of fuel cost (F) in subsection (3)(a) and (b) of this section, the forced outage costs to be subtracted shall be no less than the fuel cost related to the lost generation until approval is obtained.

(5) Sales (S) shall be all KWH's sold, excluding intersystem sales. Utility used energy shall not be excluded in the determination of sales (S). If, for any reason, billed system sales cannot be coordinated with fuel costs for the billing period, sales may be equated to:

- (a) Generation; plus
- (b) Purchases; plus
- (c) Interchange-in; less
- (d) Energy associated with pumped storage operations; less
- (e) Intersystem sales referred to in subsection (3)(d) of this section; less
- (f) Total system losses.

(6) The cost of fossil fuel shall only include the cost of the fuel itself and necessary charges for transportation of the fuel from the point of acquisition to the unloading point, as listed in Account 151 of FERC Uniform System of Accounts for Public Utilities and Licensees, less any cash or other discounts.

Section 2. Filing Requirements. (1) If a utility initially proposes a fuel adjustment clause, the utility shall submit copies of each fossil fuel purchase contract not otherwise on file with the commission and all other agreements, options, amendments, modifications, and similar documents related to the procurement of fuel supply or purchased power.

(2) Any changes in the contracts or other documents filed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, including price escalations, and any new agreements entered into after the initial submission, shall be submitted at the time they are entered into.

(3) If fuel is purchased from utility-owned or controlled sources, or the contract contains a price escalation clause, those facts shall be noted, and the utility shall explain and justify them in writing.

(4) The monthly fuel adjustment shall be filed with the commission no later than ten (10) days before it is scheduled to go into effect, along with all the necessary supporting data to justify the amount of the adjustment.

(5) Copies of all documents required to be filed with the commission under this administrative regulation shall be open and made available for public inspection at the office of the Public Service Commission pursuant to the provisions of KRS 61.870 to 61.884.

Section 3. Review of Fuel Adjustment Clauses (1) Fuel charges that are unreasonable shall be disallowed and may result in the suspension of the fuel adjustment clause based on the severity of the utility's unreasonable fuel charges and any history of unreasonable fuel charges.

(2) The commission on its own motion may investigate any aspect of fuel purchasing activities covered by this administrative regulation.

(3)(a) At six (6) month intervals, the commission shall conduct a formal review and may conduct public hearings on a utility's past fuel adjustments.

(b) The commission shall order a utility to charge off and amortize, by means of a temporary decrease of rates, any adjustments the commission finds unjustified due to improper calculation or application of the charge or improper fuel procurement practices.

(4)(a) Every two (2) years following the initial effective date of each utility's fuel clause, the commission shall conduct a formal review and evaluate past operations of the clause, disallow improper expenses and, to the extent appropriate, reestablish the fuel clause charge in accordance with Section 1 (2) of this administrative regulation.

(b) The commission may conduct a public hearing if the commission finds that a hearing is necessary for the protection of a substantial interest or is in the public interest.

(5) For any contracts entered into on or after December 1, 2019, the commission shall, in determining the reasonableness of fuel costs in procurement contracts and fuel procurement

practices, evaluate the reasonableness of fuel costs in contracts and competing bids based on the cost of the fuel less any coal severance tax imposed by any jurisdiction. (8 Ky.R. 822; eff. 4-7-1982; Crt eff. 3-27-2019; 45 Ky.R. 3272; 46 Ky.R. 41, 435; eff. 8-20-2019.)