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October 23, 2008

## VIA HAND DELIVERY

Tre Hargett, Chairman Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37219

> Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Kentucky Utilities Company for an Order Authorizing the Issuance of Securities and the Assumption of Obligations TRA Docket No. 08-00144

Dear Chairman Hargett,

Enclosed you will find five copies of the Order and amendment to the Order of the Kentucky Public Service Commission approving the issuance of securities that are subject to this docket. The enclosed documents have also been filed electronically.

Sincerely,

D. Billye Sanders

Attorney for Kentucky Utilities

Company

DBS:hmd Enclosures

cc: Kendrick R. Riggs, Esq.
John Wade Hendricks, Esq.
Allyson K. Sturgeon, Esq.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF KENTUCKY	)	
UTILITIES COMPANY FOR AN ORDER	)	
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF	)	CASE NO. 2008-00309
SECURITIES AND THE ASSUMPTION	)	
OF OBLIGATIONS	)	

### ORDER

On July 29, 2008, Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU") filed an application for authority to assume certain obligations under various agreements in connection with the proposed issuance of one or more series of Carroll County Environmental Facilities Revenue Bonds ("Pollution Control Bonds"). The Pollution Control Bonds would be issued up to an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$18,026,265. Carroll County would loan the proceeds to KU to provide permanent financing for a portion of the pollution control facilities at the Ghent Generating Station.

The Pollution Control Bonds will be sold in one or more underwritten public offerings, negotiated sales, or private placement transactions. The price, maturity date(s), interest rates(s), and the redemption provisions and other terms and provisions of each series would be negotiated between KU and Carroll County and the purchasers of the bonds. In addition to the new financing discussed above, KU has previously obtained authorization to refund up to eight series of outstanding pollution control debt. KU has identified four series of debt under this prior authority that it may refund and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Case No. 2008-00132, The Application of Kentucky Utilities Company for an Order Authorizing the Issuance of Securities and the Assumption of Obligations, Order dated June 17, 2008.

consolidate with the new Pollution Control Bonds, if authority for the new bonds is granted.

In connection with these bonds, KU would assume certain obligations under the loan agreements and may enter into agreements which would guarantee repayment of all or part of the Pollution Control Bonds. KU would also incur various costs as part of the issuance. KU estimates that the amount paid to the underwriters for their services would not exceed two percent of the principal amount of the Pollution Control Bonds and the remaining issuance costs would be approximately \$300,000. KU plans to issue all or a portion of the Pollution Control Bonds with an interest rate that fluctuates on a weekly, monthly or other basis and would reserve the option to convert any variable rate bonds to other interest rate modes, including a fixed rate of interest. Pollution Control Bonds issued with variable rates could also be subject to tender by the holders for redemption or purchase. In order to provide the funds necessary to repurchase tendered bonds, KU will enter into Remarketing Agreements with one or more remarketing agents who would use their best efforts to remarket the bonds to other purchasers at a price equal to 100 percent of the par amount of any variable rate Pollution Control Bonds. Because of problems KU and other bonds issuers have experienced recently with using auction mode bonds, KU does not anticipate using auction mode bonds and would replace the use of bond insurance with a Facility. The Facility would be a credit agreement designed to provide KU the ability to borrow funds to pay for any tendered variable rate bonds not remarketed. KU estimates the impact of this type of arrangement on the interest rate would be approximately one percent. KU may also enter into interest rate hedging agreements with a bank or financial institution in order to allow KU to actively manage and limit its exposure to variable interest rates and lower its borrowing costs on fixed rate Pollution Control Bonds.

KU is requesting this form of financing in order to take advantage of tax exempt financing available through Private Activity Bonds granted by the Kentucky Private Activity Bond Allocation Committee ("Committee"). Private Activity Bonds are bonds issued by a governmental entity where the proceeds are then loaned to a qualified private business which is beneficial to the public. Examples of such businesses are airports, water facilities, and solid waste disposal facilities. In this case, Carroll County is the issuing governmental entity and KU will use the proceeds in connection with financing the solid waste disposal portion of its pollution control activities.<sup>2</sup> The bonds that will be issued by Carroll County qualify as Exempt Facility Bonds and may be issued as tax-exempt debt under certain sections of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. KU was recently allocated \$18,026,265 for private activity bonds by the Committee which will expire 90 days after issuance, i.e. October 21, 2008. KU requests that the Commission issue its decision by September 25, 2008, in order to allow it enough time to process the bond issuance.

The Commission, having considered the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that the assumption of obligations in connection therewith as set out in KU's application is for lawful objects within the corporate purposes of KU's utility operations, is necessary and appropriate for and consistent with the proper performance of its service to the public, will not impair its ability to perform that service, is reasonably necessary and appropriate for such purposes, and should therefore be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Response to Commission Staff's First Data Request dated August 19, 2008, Item 1.

approved.

### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- 1. KU is authorized to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under the loan agreements with Carroll County, Kentucky and under any guaranties, remarketing agreements, hedging agreements, bond insurance agreements, credit agreements and such other agreements and documents as set out in its application, and to perform the transactions contemplated by all of such agreements.
- 2. The proceeds from the transactions authorized herein shall be used only for the lawful purposes set out in the application.
- KU shall agree only to such terms and prices that are consistent with the parameters set out in its application and that produce net present value savings over the existing financing.
- 4. KU shall, within 30 days from the date of issuance, file with this Commission a statement setting forth the date or dates of issuance of the securities authorized herein, the price paid, the interest rate(s), and all fees and expenses, including underwriting discounts or commission or other compensation, involved in the issuance and distribution. In addition, KU shall include a detailed explanation as to how the interest rate alternative chosen represents the most reasonable interest rate available at the time of issuance. The explanation shall include a description of the specific interest rate management techniques and interest rate management agreements utilized by KU for each issuance, as well as copies of any executed interest rate management agreements. If a variable interest rate is chosen, KU shall file a detailed description of the criteria to be periodically applied in determining whether the

variable rate should be converted to a fixed rate.

5. KU shall, to the extent that the issuance involves consolidation with any debt obligations that KU has authority to refund pursuant to authority granted in Case No. 2008-00132, comply with all requirements, including reporting requirements set out in the Commission's Order in Case No. 2008-00132.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a finding of value for any purpose or as a warranty on the part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or any agency thereof as to the securities authorized herein.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 16th day of September, 2008.

By the Commission

Chairman Armstrong Abstains.

Executive Director

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY ) CASE NO. FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ) 2008-00309 SECURITIES AND THE ASSUMPTION OF OBLIGATIONS )

### ORDER

By Order dated September 16, 2008, the Commission authorized Kentucky Utilities Company ("KU") to assume certain obligations under loan agreements with Carroll County, Kentucky in relation to the issuance of tax-exempt pollution control bonds. In that Order, the Commission also granted KU authority to refund and consolidate four series of existing pollution control bonds with the new pollution control bonds. The Commission had previously authorized KU to refinance the four existing bonds in Case No. 2008-00132. On September 23, 2008, KU filed a motion seeking to amend Ordering Paragraph 3, which provides as follows:

KU shall agree only to such terms and prices that are consistent with the parameters set out in its application and that produce net present value savings over the existing financing.

(Emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The four series of debt that KU identified in its application are: (1) Carroll County, Kentucky Environmental Facilities Revenue Bonds, 2005 Series A; (2) Carroll County, Kentucky Environmental Facilities Revenue Bonds, 2005 Series B; (3) Carroll County, Kentucky Environmental Facilities Revenue Bonds, 2006 Series A; and (4) Carroll County, Kentucky Environmental Facilities Revenue Bonds, 2006 Series C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Case No. 2008-00132, The Application of Kentucky Utilities Company for an Order Authorizing the Issuance of Securities and the Assumption of Obligations (Ky. PSC June 17, 2008).

Other than the four specific existing pollution control bonds, KU asserts that it is not able to identify any other specific existing financing that the proceeds from the new bonds will replace. KU further states that it does not assign specific financing to any particular project or use and does not project finance capital costs. All components of KU's capital structure, both debt, long-term and short-term, and equity, are used to fund capital expenditures. Thus, KU concludes that the appropriate comparison is between the cost to KU of permanent financing using tax-exempt debt and taxable debt.

KU recommends that Ordering Paragraph 3 to the September 16, 2008 Order be amended as follows:

KU shall agree only to such terms and prices that are consistent with the parameters set out in its application and that produce net present value savings over the four series of existing financing identified in Case No. 2008-00132.<sup>3</sup>

(Emphasis added).

Having considered the motion and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that KU's proposed amendments to the September 16, 2008 Order are reasonable and that KU's motion should be granted.

#### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- 1. KU's motion for amendment of Order is granted.
- 2. Ordering Paragraph 3 of the September 16, 2008 Order shall be amended as follows:

KU shall agree only to such terms and prices that are consistent with the parameters set out in its application and that produce net present value savings over the four series of existing financing specifically identified in this Order and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> KU proposed the recommended language in an October 3, 2008 letter, which was filed subsequent to an informal conference conducted on October 1, 2008.

previously authorized to be refinanced in Case No. 2008-00132.

All remaining provisions of the Commission's Order of September 16,
 2008 remain in full force and effect.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 9th day of October, 2008.

By the Commission

Chairman Armstrong abstains.

Everutive Director

Case No. 2008-00309