

PSC issues order to investigate the affordability of electric and natural gas utility service in Kentucky

Special to Appalachian Newspapers

The Kentucky Public Service Commission announced in a statement Aug. 26 that it has opened a case to provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders in the commonwealth to identify and discuss concerns and potential measures to improve the affordability of electric and natural gas utility service for residential ratepayers.

The commission, according to the statement, made all regulat-

ed electric utilities and the five largest natural gas utilities parties to the proceeding to create a comprehensive record.

The commission, the statement said, invites interested groups or individuals with a special interest in the affordability of electric and natural gas utility service to participate by seeking intervention to the case or by filing public comments.

Public comments may be submitted through the Commission's website at, <https://psc.ky.gov/>

Case/SearchCasesPublicComments, or by sending an email to, psc.comment@ky.gov.

"Access to electric and natural gas utility service is fundamental to the health, safety, and well-being of Kentuckians," the statement said. "Today's order notes that data collected from the Energy Information Administration show that the

calculated average residential electricity price in Kentucky was 10.87 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in 2020 and was 13.24 cents per kWh in 2025, showing a 21.8 percent increase from 2020 to 2025."

"Given the current environment of rising utility costs, the commission believes that a broader examination of electric and natural

gas utility affordability issues would help the commission better understand the factors affecting affordability across the commonwealth and evaluate existing and potential approaches for addressing those concerns," the statement continued.

The statement said the commission intends to convene a technical conference in 2027 for

parties to examine issues developed in the record, the statement said. The commission has requested that parties file their initial comments and proposed topics for this case on or before Sept. 30.

The order and other records in the case are available on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov. The case number is 2026-00185.

PASSAGE

Continued From Page 1A

our trail," Hughes said in opening remarks. "We want to celebrate and thank a community leader, friend, and one that puts others before himself."

Hughes said the Prestonsburg Passage began several years ago due to Fields.

"It has really helped tourism along the way," Hughes said. "Joining in with tourism and, of course, our city and our community, it has been a wonderful adventure."

Hughes joked that he was surprised that Fields' wife, Nikki, did not tell her husband about the dedication prior to their arrival at the ceremony.

"I was told, 'She will tell him, she'll tell him, she'll tell him,'" Hughes said before asking Don to address the crowd.

Don, the owner of Pro Fitness in Prestonsburg, said he was at a loss for words.

"I've enjoyed every minute of this trip — the kayaking, the biking, the fitness center," Fields said. "I didn't expect anything like this. It's been great. Prestonsburg is my home. I grew up in Whitesburg. When I came here, it was like I hadn't even moved ... I enjoy what I do. I get up every day, and I think, 'You know, I get to ride my bike today, I get to go to the gym, I get to see all these people that I've known for so many years. Thank you all. She didn't tell me. I had no idea.'"

Don and his wife then removed a bag

that was covering the sign for the Don Fields Trailhead that says it is named "In Recognition Of His Decades Of Hard Work And Dedication To The Health, Wellbeing And Tourism Industry In The City Of Prestonsburg."

Nikki then spoke briefly, saying they had been on vacation when she was told to call Hughes, who told her about the dedication.

"I just had tears in my eyes when he told that because Don is so worthy of this and so much more," she said. "He's done so much that some people may not even realize that he does, and I'm very blessed to stand my him as his wife."

Hughes said he agreed with Nikki's comments about her husband.

"She is right. Don does so much for our community," Hughes said. "I know he takes old bikes. He refurbishes them and gives them to our kids or to people that can't afford one."

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Public Forum

Floyd County Chronicle & Times



TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

@ 6PM – 7:30PM

MOUNTAIN ARTS CENTER

50 Hal Rogers Drive,

Prestonsburg

FLOYD COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

- Robert Williams (I) Incumbent
- Debbie “Doc” Hall (R) Challenger

Public is invited and welcome to ask questions.