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February 6, 2012

Jeff Derouen, Executive Director  
Kentucky Public Service Commission  
211 Sower Blvd.  
PO Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

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FEB 07 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

RE: Case No. 2011-00450  
First Information Request

Mr. Derouen:

Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation respectfully submits the information requested regarding Case No. 2011-00450.

Please inform me if any further information is required.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Brite  
Attorney for Meade County RECC

**RECEIVED**

FEB 07 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

**MEADE COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION**

**CASE NO. 2011-00450**


**RESPONSE TO COMMISSION STAFF'S INITIAL DATA REQUEST**

STATE OF KENTUCKY)

COUNTY OF MEADE)

I, David Poe, Vice President of Operations at Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, state that I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this application and attached exhibits, and that the statements and calculations contained in each are true as I verily believe.

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Poe

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me by David Poe this

6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, KY State at Large

My Commission Expires: 3-18-2012



**MEADE COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION  
CASE NO. 2011-00450  
RESPONSE TO COMMISSION STAFF'S INITIAL DATA REQUEST**

1. The following questions relate to the data maintained by each utility.

**Response by: David Poe**

- a. Identify the number of circuits currently maintained by the electric utility.

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- b. Does the utility calculate separate SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI indices for each circuit? If no, explain why not and explain the degree to which the utility tracks the following:
- (1) SAIDI;
  - (2) SAIFI; and
  - (3) CAIDI.

Yes

- c. Identify any other reliability indicator or measure the utility uses to assess reliability. Explain the significance of each indicator or measure used. Does the utility maintain these indicators or measures for each circuit?

CAIFI – This is an indicator of the number of times that only affected consumers experience outages. It helps to focus only on the areas or accounts that are experiencing reliability issues. CAIFI is measured for the system and for each circuit..  
NOTE: CAIFI is generally maintainable only if an Outage Management System (OMS) with detailed data is used. This index is very data intensive.

“Outage Counts” are used in calculating some of the indices but is also useful by itself. High outage counts can point to problems without diluting or exaggerating the reality of the reliability as the standard indices can do.



2. The following questions refer to the manner in which each utility calculates and tracks the SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI indices.

Response by: David Poe

- a. **Identify the manner in which the indices are calculated and tracked; i.e., manually (Excel spread sheet), or an electronic or mechanized (outage reporting) system.**

The outage data is formed and contained within an OMS which is incorporated within the utility's GIS/mapping software. The data is then passed into the utility's CIS (Customer information System) where the indices are calculated on a monthly basis. The data is manually pushed over to the CIS.

- b. **If the response to Item 2.a. above is electronic or mechanized, provide a description of the system and explain whether it was developed internally or purchased from a third-party vendor. If purchased from a third-party vendor, provide the name of the vendor and an estimate of the original cost of the system.**

The utility's OMS is a third party software package. The portion that calculates and stores the indices and data is on the utility's CIS.

The OMS is called "Utility Center" and was produced by Trimble Navigation. The system cost \$518,000 in 2003.

- c. **If the response in Item 2.a. above is manually, provide a description of the elements tracked. Discuss in detail any inquiry made into the internal development of an electronic or mechanized system or any consideration of the purchase of a system from a third-party vendor.**

The monthly data is pushed to the CIS manually monthly using batch routines on both the CIS and the OMS. Everything else, with the exception of the year-end report to the KY PSC, is automated. Data is manually transferred into a spreadsheet for the final report to match the Commission's required format.

No inquiry has been made concerning the automation of this process. However, prior inquiries regarding alterations or customization of other OMS functions have been cost prohibitive and generally not supported by the provider.





3. Concerning SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI reporting: the commission directed that the reporting be based on the criteria and definitions set forth in the IEEE Standard.

Response by: David Poe

- a. If the utility does not follow the IEEE standard, explain why not. Explain what standard(s) the utility does follow in its calculation of SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI.

MCRECC does adhere to the reporting standards set forth by the IEEE.

- b. Does the utility track and review SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI monthly, quarterly or annually?

The indices are calculated and tracked on monthly and yearly time periods. Reviews are performed by the Cooperative yearly.

- c. Are SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI tracked on a rolling 12-month period or for a more discrete period of time; i.e., monthly, quarterly, or annually?

The indices are calculated and tracked monthly and yearly. The yearly numbers can be a calendar year or a rolling 12 months.

- d. Currently, in each annual report submitted pursuant to the Final Order in Case No. 2006-00494, each utility provides system-wide SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI calculated for a calendar year. Identify any other preferred 12-month reporting parameter; i.e., calendar year, fiscal year, or some other 12-month method.

No other preferred reporting parameters are requested or recommended.

- e. Does the utility review SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI by any discrete fashion such as by division, district, region or some other method?

No.



4. The following questions relate to the requirement that each utility report the ten worst-performing circuits for each index in the annual report submitted pursuant to the Final Order in Case No. 2006-00494.

Response by: David Poe

- a. If the utility does not track SAIDI, SAIFI and CAIDI for each circuit, explain how the ten worst-performing circuits are identified.

The Cooperative does track the indices for each circuit.

- b. Does the utility see benefit in expanding the reporting of the worst-performing circuits to the 15 or 20 worst-performing circuits for each index?

No.

- c. Identify any alternative to reporting the ten worst-performing circuits that the utility utilizes to determine system reliability.

MCRECC primarily examines trends regarding the causes, quantity, or, perhaps, the duration of outages pertaining to the system, substations, or circuits. MCRECC does not necessarily focus on the worst 10 circuits but rather any that 'stands out'. A utility with only 70 circuits or less would find themselves addressing 15% per index of their circuits if 10 circuits were being singled out whereas a utility with 500 circuits would be focusing on only 2%. When all three indices are used, potentially the smaller utility could find itself addressing the reliability of more than 43% of their circuits. A more realistic approach would be to prescribe a percentage of the circuits to focus on.



5. The following questions relate to the identification of the ten worst-performing circuits for each index.

Response by: David Poe

- a. Provide an explanation of the actions taken by the utility once the ten worst-performing circuits for each index have been identified. Include the typical steps taken to correct the reliability issues relating to the ten worst-performing circuits for each index.

As stated in 4(c), MCRECC does not necessarily focus on the 10 worst circuits list identified by the indices but rather any trends that may be occurring within the system. Once an issue or area is identified, the causes are examined by the operations and engineering personnel who determines whether it warrants further investigation or actions; if so, the process of producing work orders or service orders is initiated, material procured, if necessary, and the work scheduled and performed. If the solution(s) are deemed extensive (such as the addition or upgrade of a substation), further studies may be performed and approvals procured from the appropriate entities (RUS, PSC, etc.).

Being a small utility allows its management to be close to the events occurring and able to quickly identify reliability issues before they escalate. In most cases, when a legitimate reliability issue is present, management and the front line personnel are aware and working on it within days or hours.

- b. Provide a timeline of the typical steps taken to correct reliability issues relating to the ten worst-performing circuits for each index.

No prescribed steps or timelines are set to address issues. The time needed to address issues range from immediate to more long-term (such as building a substation).

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