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July 29, 2009

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2009

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Mr. Jeffrey Derouen
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

Re: East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.
2009 Integrated Resource Plan
PSC Case No. 2009-00106

Dear Mr. Derouen:

Enclosed please find herewith an original and ten (10) copies of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.'s Application for Rehearing of Commission's Order of July 13, 2009 allowing for full intervention by Environmental Groups.

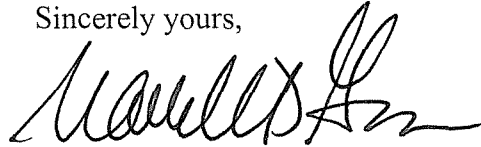
East Kentucky Cooperative respectfully requests that this Application be lodged for record in the Commission's file and that same be provided to the Commission for their review and consideration.

Please be further advised that copies of this letter have been sent, along with the Application, to all individuals listed on the Application's Certificate of Service. Please return a file stamped copy of the above to me in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Mr. Jeffrey Derouen
July 29, 2009
Page 2

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark David Goss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Mark David Goss

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Dennis G. Howard, II
Hon. Lawrence W. Cook
Hon. Robert Ukeiley
Hon. Michael L. Kurtz
Hon. Richard Raff

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2009

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

2009 INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN OF) CASE NO.
EAST KENTUCKY POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.) 2009-00106

**EAST KENTUCKY POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.'S APPLICATION
FOR REHEARING OF COMMISSION'S ORDER OF JULY 13, 2009
ALLOWING FOR FULL INTERVENTION BY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS**

Comes now East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. ("EKPC"), pursuant to KRS 278.400, and 807 KAR 5:001 Section 4, and makes application to the Kentucky Public Service Commission ("Commission") for Rehearing of its Order of July 13, 2009 allowing for full intervention of three environmental advocacy groups, Sierra Club, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (collectively, the "Environmental Groups") into this case which is the Commission's review of EKPC's triennial Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP").

Relief Requested by EKPC on Rehearing

EKPC requests the Commission to reconsider its decision to permit full intervention of the Environmental Groups and to enter a superseding Order disallowing it. If the Commission declines to take such action, EKPC requests that the Commission amplify its July 13, 2009 Order to deny access by the Environmental Groups of all confidential information related to the conduct of its business and to more clearly define Intervenors' permissible role in this proceeding.

The bases upon which this rehearing is sought are enumerated below:

**I. THERE ARE COMPELLING REASONS FOR RESCINDING
THE JULY 13, 2009 ORDER**

In its July 13, 2009 Order granting full intervention to the Environmental Groups, the Commission considered the two-prong test against which the Commission measures all motions for full intervention. 807 KAR 5:001 Section 3(8)(b).¹ The Commission was not persuaded by the Environmental Groups' claims that they have a special interest in the proceeding, which is not otherwise represented. It was, however, persuaded that the Environmental Groups possess "sufficient" expertise in areas within the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction and the parameters of an IRP case. It determined that full intervention by the Environmental Groups was likely to present issues or develop facts that would assist the staff in its review of EKPC's IRP without complicating or disrupting the review.²

Of note is the Commission's determination in this case that the Environmental Groups possess "sufficient" expertise in areas germane to the IRP. Presumably, if the Commission felt that the Environmental Groups possessed extraordinary or notable capabilities and expertise in these areas, it would have said so and not chosen to use the word "sufficient". This leads to a conclusion that the Commission considered the Environmental Groups' expertise on these issues marginal, at best, when compared to the expertise of the Kentucky Attorney General ("AG") and Commission Staff on the same subjects which have adequately served the Commission for decades.

¹ That regulation provides: "If the Commission determines that a person has a special interest in the proceeding which is not otherwise adequately represented or that full intervention by party is likely to present issues or to develop facts that assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings, such person shall be granted full intervention."

² Commission's July 13, 2009 Order, at 9-10.

Under the second prong of the Commission’s test for full intervention, an intervenor must be able to accomplish two goals: (a) present issues or develop facts that will assist the Commission Staff beyond their capabilities or the capabilities of another party; and, (b) its presence in the case will not complicate or disrupt the review.³ The Environmental Groups have met neither test nor met the regulatory burden for full intervention.

II. INTERVENTION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS IN THE CASE IS REDUNDANT, INAPPROPRIATE, AND DISREGARDS ESTABLISHED COMMISSION PRECEDENT

In the last Joint IRP of Louisville Gas and Electric Company (“LG&E”) and Kentucky Utilities Company (“KU”)⁴ the Commission stated:

“As a function of the Commission’s jurisdiction, *vis-a-vis* KRS 278.040, the Commission’s examination of issues such as demand-side management, non-coal electric generation, and energy efficiency coincides with issues within the scope of the AG’s representation of Kentucky consumers under KRS 367.150.”⁵

That case involved a motion by Mr. Geoffrey Young, a very active participant in environmental causes, for full intervention in the review of LG&E/KU’s 2008 IRP case. Mr. Young sought to participate in the investigation and review of the very same issues which the Environmental Groups claim they wish to address in this case: demand-side management, non-coal electric generation (renewables) and energy efficiency.⁶

The Commission denied Mr. Young’s request for full intervention finding that his participation on these issues was redundant and unnecessary:

³ 807 KAR 5:001 Section 3(8)(b).

⁴ Case No. 2008-00148, In the Matter of: The 2008 Joint Integrated Resource Plan of Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company.

⁵ Id. at 6.

⁶ See, Case No. 2009-00106, Sierra Club, Kentucky Environmental Foundation and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth Motion for Full Intervention, at 6-12; see also, Commission’s July 13, 2009 Order, at 8: “To the extent that the Environmental Groups seek to address issues . . . such as energy efficiency, demand-side management and renewable energy . . .” (emphasis added).

“The Commission finds that the AG has participated in numerous prior IRP cases and has offered helpful comments concerning the energy policy issues Mr. Young seeks to advocate in this matter.”⁷

* * * * *

“The Commission finds that the AG, as the statutorily authorized representative of Kentucky’s utility consumers, has a continuing interest in articulating and advocating support for renewable energy and energy conservation issues – the same issues that Mr. Young seeks to advocate in this proceeding. The Commission further finds that the AG has consistently exercised his statutory duty to investigate these energy policy issues and to advocate their consideration by the Commission in its examination of the IRPs filed by Kentucky’s jurisdictional electric utilities over the past several years. As the AG has intervened in this case, the Commission finds that the issues that Mr. Young seeks to promote as a full intervenor in this matter are already well represented, and, as such, Mr. Young has not adequately demonstrated that he will present issues or develop facts that would assist the Commission in fully considering the issues in this case without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceeding. Therefore, the Commission will deny his petition for full intervenor status on those grounds.”⁸

It is clear from a review of the IRP cases of the major jurisdictional electric utilities in Kentucky that this same issue has arisen and been dealt with swiftly and unambiguously by the Commission. The Commission has consistently denied motions for intervention when the intervenor seeks to address demand-side management, renewables and energy efficiency issues finding that the AG has exercised his statutory duty to investigate these energy policy issues and advocate their consideration by the Commission.

Given the longstanding precedent by the Commission in IRP cases to deny motions to intervene which are virtually identical to the type made by the Environmental Groups in this

⁷ Case No. 2008-00148, In the Matter of: The 2008 Joint Integrated Resource Plan of Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company, at 7.

⁸ *Id.* at 8; For other IRP cases containing a similar discussion of the role of the AG in advocating demand-side management, renewables and energy efficiency, *see, e.g.*, Case No. 2008-00248, In the Matter of: The 2008 Integrated Resource Plan of Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc.; Case No. 2006-00471, In the Matter of: The 2006 Integrated Resource Plan of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.; Case No. 2003-00051, In the Matter of: The 2003 Integrated Resource Plan of East Kentucky Power Cooperative; Case No. 2002-00428, In the Matter of: The 2002 Integrated Resource Plan of Big Rivers Electric Corporation.

case, one must ask: “What has changed?” “How is this case different?” Neither the Intervenor’s pleadings nor the Commission’s Order have adequately answered either of these questions. The Commission’s longstanding decision that the AG was the appropriate party to address energy efficiency, renewables and demand-side management was the correct one. To hold otherwise here will completely invalidate years of Commission precedent on the subject of intervention and inject redundancy, complication and disruption to these proceedings and will open the door to similar unnecessary interventions in the future. Certainly, if there ever came a time when the Commission felt that the AG was not adequately advocating these issues, for whatever reason, the Commission would have plenty of justification to change its position on the issue. That has certainly not occurred here as the Commission’s Order allowing the Environmental Groups’ intervention is devoid of any such discussion or rationale.

III. THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WILL USE INTERVENTION IN THIS IRP CASE AS A SPRINGBOARD TO ATTACK THE CONSTRUCTION OF EKPC’S SMITH I PLANT

A person need only spend a few minutes surfing the Environmental Groups’ respective websites to see how adamantly opposed they are to any sort of coal-fired electric generation, especially new plants. Their rhetoric is pure and establishes an unapologetic disdain for anything “coal.” They are well funded, organized and emboldened by several recent court and administrative victories. No one should delude themselves as to the Environmental Groups’ singular mission regarding coal: stop its use as a fuel for the generation of electricity both in Kentucky and the United States.

The Sierra Club says that its “Beyond Coal Campaign” is “. . . working hard to stop the construction of dirty, new coal plants by educating investors and decision makers about the

economic and environmental risks of investing in new coal.” (emphasis added).⁹ Presumably, the Kentucky Public Service Commission is one of those “decision makers” that the Sierra Club is attempting to convince to stop the construction of new coal plants.

The Sierra Club, or “the Club” to which they like to be referred, has either filed or intervened in numerous court and administrative actions against EKPC challenging the company’s continued use of coal as a fuel to produce electricity.¹⁰ By its own admission, it “is involved in the permitting of almost every proposed coal fired power plant in the country.”¹¹ All of this activity, including its participation in this Kentucky IRP case, is coordinated by its national headquarters in San Francisco, CA.¹² It is not coincidence that the Sierra Club failed to request full intervention in last year’s LG&E/KU and Duke Energy Kentucky IRP cases, but decided to intervene in EKPC’s current IRP case. The difference in the cases is simply this: EKPC is in the process of constructing Smith I, a new coal-fired generating plant – such was not the case last year with either LG&E/KU or Duke.

Finally, its well-organized website contains a “Stopping the Coal Rush” map which locates every coal-fired electricity plant in the United States and designates them as either

⁹ See, <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/>; <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/overuled.aspx> (Appendix “A” hereto).

¹⁰ Among some of the cases in which the Sierra Club is involved against EKPC regarding the Company’s use of coal are: *Sierra Club vs. Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet and EKPC (Intervenor)* Franklin Circuit Court Case #07-CI-1644; *Petition to United States Environmental Protection Agency to Object to Issuance of a Title V Permit for the William C. Dale Generating Station*; *Sierra Club vs. Environmental Protection Agency*; United States 6th Circuit Court of Appeals Case #07-4485; *Sierra Club v. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture et al.*, Case No. 3:08-cv-04248-SC (N.D. Cal.); *Center for Biological Diversity, Ky Environmental Foundation, Sierra Club vs. Rural Utilities Services* – United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, Case No. 5:08-cv-00292; *Sierra Club v. Johnson*, United States District Court for the District of Columbia case No. 08-CV-01545 CKK; *Sierra Club vs. East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.* – United States District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky, Central Division at Lexington, Case #5:09-cv-144.

¹¹ See, Environmental Groups’ Motion for Full Intervention, at 11.

¹² In fact, the Motion for Full Intervention in this case contains the name of Gloria Smith, Senior Staff Attorney, Sierra Club Environmental Law Program, San Francisco, California, in an “Of Counsel” role.

“Victory!”, “Active”, “Upcoming”, “Uncertain”, “Progressing” or “No Status”. A person can click on the Smith I “balloon” on the map and a description of the current status of the plant (as of April 2009) can be found. Similar status determinations can be made for all other plants in the United States.¹³

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (“KFTC”) take positions on coal very similar to that of the Sierra Club. KFTC does not mince words regarding new coal-fired plants: It’s “Canary Project” promotes, among a number of initiatives, stopping “. . . the rush to build new coal fired power plants . . .”¹⁴ In fact, KFTC touts the recent Ochs Center report which attempts to make the case that Smith I should be scrapped. Interestingly, the URL address needed to access this report on the KFTC website contains the phrase “stop-smith.”¹⁵

The Kentucky Environmental Foundation (“KEF”) is similar to its two sister organizations in its fervor to stop the construction of Smith I. Its website homepage contains at least three references to articles and reports suggesting that EKPC should cancel the construction of Smith I.¹⁶ In support of its Smith I position, KEF relies upon a report dated April 7, 2009 prepared by Tom Sanzillo of TR Rose Associates, prepared specifically for the three Environmental Groups seeking intervention in this case.¹⁷

¹³ See, <http://www.sierraclub.org/maps/coal.asp>. (Appendix “A” hereto).

¹⁴ See, [KFTC’s Position on Coal](http://www.kftc.org/our-work/canary-project/about-canary/position-on-coal), August 6, 2007, at 3. (<http://www.kftc.org/our-work/canary-project/about-canary/position-on-coal>). (Appendix “A” hereto).

¹⁵ See, [An Analysis of the Economic Impact of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the East Kentucky Power Cooperative Region](http://www.kftc.org/our-work/stop-smith/EKPCGreenJobsReport.pdf), William Tharp, Ph.D., Lori Tuillen, Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies, July 2009. (<http://www.kftc.org/our-work/stop-smith/EKPCGreenJobsReport.pdf>).

¹⁶ See, <http://kyenvironmentalfoundation.org/cleanair.html>. (Appendix “A” hereto).

¹⁷ See, [The Right Decision for Changing Times, How East Kentucky Power Cooperative Ratepayers Benefit from Canceling Plans for a New Coal Burning Power Plant in Clark County](http://kyenvironmentalfoundation.org/RightDecisionReport.org), a Report Prepared for: Cumberland Chapter of Sierra Club, Kentucky Environmental Foundation and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, April 7, 2009, T. Sanzillo. This report can be accessed at: <http://kyenvironmentalfoundation.org/RightDecisionReport.org>.

In their original motion to intervene, the Environmental Groups point to the success of Mr. Sanzillo and TR Rose Consultants in stopping the construction of coal plants in Iowa, Michigan and South Carolina.¹⁸ The Environmental Groups' strategy to attack Smith I in this IRP case is illuminated in a later discussion of Mr. Sanzillo's report:

“While preparing his East Kentucky Power Cooperative report, Mr. Sanzillo sent a series of questions to East Kentucky Power to strengthen his analysis. East Kentucky Power never responded to any of this questions. However, in this proceeding, if the Public Interest Groups are granted full intervention, East Kentucky Power Cooperative would be required to provide answers to questions to strengthen the analysis. At that point, the Public Interest Groups could provide the Commission with an even more robust analysis of how East Kentucky Power Cooperative's currently proposed generating unit additions impact its financial position.” (emphasis added).¹⁹

The use of full intervention by the Environmental Groups to make “even more robust” its analysis that Smith I should be scrapped is a complete misappropriation of both the IRP statute and regulation and the Commission should absolutely disallow it.

EKPC believes that the Commission has similar misgivings concerning the Environmental Groups' intentions in this case. In its Order granting intervention, the Commission stated that this IRP proceeding could not be used as a forum for relitigating the granting of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) to construct Smith I.²⁰ Rather, the Environmental Groups would be limited to addressing energy efficiency, demand-side management and renewable energy issues.²¹

¹⁸ See, Environmental Groups' Motion for Full Intervention, at 8.

¹⁹ Id. at 8.

²⁰ The original CPCN case is: Case No. 2005-00053, In the Matter of: The Application of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, and a Site Compatibility Certificate, for the Construction of a 278 MW (Nominal) Circulating Fluidized Bed Coal Fired Unit and Five 90 MW (Nominal) Combustion Turbines in Clark County, Kentucky. The Commission's Order granting the CPCN to construct the Smith I plant was entered August 29, 2006.

²¹ See, Commission's July 13, 2009 Order, at 7-8.

That Order notwithstanding, EKPC has every reason to believe that the Environmental Groups intend to use intervention in this case as a way to collaterally attack the Commission's Order granting the CPCN to build Smith I. This belief is fully justified and supported after reading the 77 data requests the Environmental Groups recently made to EKPC.²²

A quick sampling of some of these data requests is quite enlightening:

“16. Provide the most recent cost estimate and construction schedule for Smith I coal plant;

* * * *

18. Provide copies of the management and consultant presentations . . . which have addressed . . .:

(a) the proposed Smith I coal plant.

. . .

(c) the costs of building new coal or natural gas power plants.

* * * *

23. Specify the funds that have already been spent on equipment and commodities for the proposed Smith I power plant and list each of the contracts for the design and construction of that plant . . .

* * * *

41. Please explain why Smith I is a lower cost alternative than three LM100 combustion turbines that EKPC had planned to build at the Smith I plant but subsequently decided not to install.”

²² See, Environmental Groups' First Set of Data Requests to East Kentucky Power Cooperative, July 23, 2009.

There are several other data requests similar to these that EKPC has not included because of space limitations. It is clear from these data requests that Smith I is the overriding focus of the Environmental Groups in this IRP case.²³

Finally, it should be noted that the Environmental Groups' recent data requests concerning Smith I were sent after, and in disregard of, the Commission's Order stating that the Smith I CPCN would not be relitigated and the Environmental Groups' participation would be limited to energy efficiency, renewables and demand-side management issues.

This leads EKPC to the inescapable conclusion that the Environmental Groups' intervention would indeed "unduly complicate or disrupt the proceedings". 807 KAR 5:001 Section 3(8)(b). The Commission should so find upon rehearing.

IV. THE RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WILL RESULT IN IRREPARABLE PREJUDICE AND HARM TO EKPC

If the Environmental Groups' intervention is permitted to stand, they will have access to EKPC's very sensitive proprietary and confidential business information. This information, which the Commission has already afforded confidential treatment,²⁴ relates to projected fuel costs, projected capital costs of potential generation facilities, projected operations and maintenance costs, projections of revenue requirements, interest rates and escalation rates, and member system rate projections, forecasts, and other sensitive information concerning new large electric loads. The Environmental Groups will certainly use this information to perpetuate the

²³ By EKPC's count, of these 77 data requests, the Environmental Groups have asked more questions about Smith I than about energy efficiency, renewables and demand-side management combined. In addition, over one-half of their questions have absolutely nothing to do with the IRP, but are requests for generic information relating to EKPC, mostly in the form of "data dumps".

²⁴ See, Commission's July 14, 2009 letter providing for confidential treatment.

onslaught of litigation directed toward EKPC; including an attack upon the CPCN allowing the construction of Smith I which the Commission has previously granted.

The Environmental Groups will no doubt argue that EKPC's concerns are groundless, since the parties will enter into a confidentiality agreement before providing the information. This is intended to prohibit its disclosure to third parties. It is not so much the disclosure to third parties about which EKPC is concerned. Rather, its principal concern is that the Environmental Groups will forever have knowledge of very sensitive corporate information which it can use over and over again in subsequent litigation against EKPC. It is meaningless that a confidentiality agreement may provide that the Environmental Groups may never use the information in a subsequent case against EKPC. Having possession of the information will be enough to use it to the detriment of EKPC and there will be many many ways to use it without specifically and formally referencing it in subsequent cases.

EKPC's concerns here are fully justified. One need only refer to the Environmental Groups' Motion for Intervention to see that the confidential information to be provided will be used to "strengthen the analysis" of Tom Sanzillo's report whose theme is the cancellation of Smith I.²⁵ This admission by the Environmental Groups signals their intent to use the confidential information obtained through discovery in this case to attack the Smith I CPCN granted by the Commission.

²⁵ See, Environmental Groups' Motion for Full Intervention, at 8.

CONCLUSION AND REQUESTED RELIEF

EKPC respectfully requests that the Commission sustain its application for rehearing and determine that it erred in its Order of July 13, 2009 insofar as it permitted the full intervention of the Environmental Groups. EKPC further requests that the Commission make a specific finding that the Environmental Groups are not likely to present issues or to develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings by virtue of the fact that the Attorney General of Kentucky has in the past, and will in this case, continue to very competently advocate the very same issues about which the Environmental Groups claim concern.

The Commission should not permit the Environmental Groups to co-opt this IRP proceeding and transform it into a referendum on the construction of the Smith I plant, and attempt to collaterally attack the CPCN which this Commission has already granted. To allow that to happen would be patently unfair, a violation of the IRP statute and regulation, and would serve to pervert the entire IRP process to the substantial detriment of both jurisdictional utilities and consumers.

Certainly, even though the Commission might determine upon rehearing that it is improper for the Environmental Groups to intervene, they would still be able to provide and file reports, analyses and comments in the case which the Commission must accept into the record and consider when reviewing the IRP under the scheme set forth in the regulation. 807 KAR 5:058 Section 11.

In the event the Commission determines that the Environmental Groups should be permitted full intervention, EKPC requests at the very least, that the Commission more fully describe and circumscribe the subject matters about which the Environmental Groups may obtain

discovery and provide comment. And, that the ordering section of the Commission's decision explicitly direct what is permitted to be addressed in the IRP, and what is prohibited.

This 29th day of July, 2009.



Mark David Goss
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Lexington, KY 40507-1749
(859) 231-0000 – Telephone
(859) 231-0011 – Facsimile
Counsel for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was served by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on July 14th, 2009 to the following:

Mr. Jeffrey Derouen
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P. O. Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Hon. Richard Raff
Senior Staff Attorney
Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
P. O. Box 615
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Hon. Dennis G. Howard, II
Hon. Lawrence W. Cook
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Counsel for Environmental Groups

Hon. Michael L. Kurtz
Boehm, Kurtz & Lowry
36 East 7th Street
Suite 1510
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Counsel for Gallatin Steel



Counsel for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc.

APPENDIX “A”

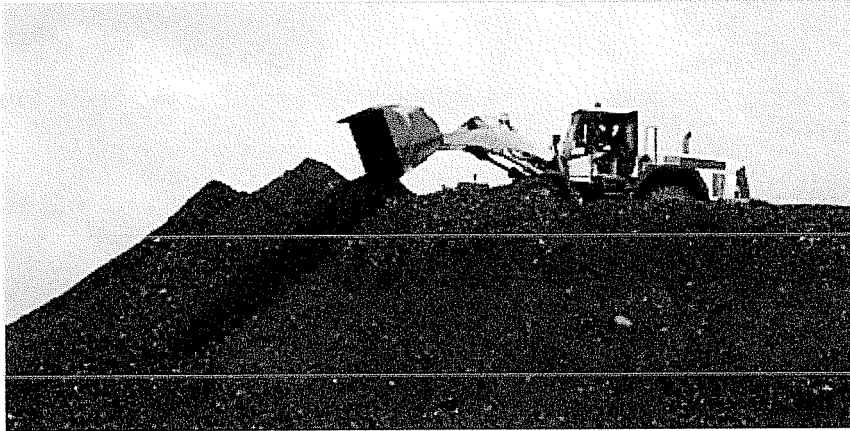
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[homepage](#) - [goals](#) - [beyond coal](#)



Beyond Coal

Coal provides about half of our electricity and more than 30% of our global warming pollution. From the mine to the plant, coal is our dirtiest energy source. It causes asthma and other health problems, destroys our mountains, and releases toxic mercury into our communities. Continuing our dependence on coal chains us to dirty energy and prevents us from making the changes we need to bring about a clean, secure energy future.



Our Program

The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign is working hard to:

1. Stop the construction of dirty, new coal plants by educating investors and decision makers about the economic and environmental risks of investing in new coal.
2. Retire old plants that are the worst contributors to health-harming soot and smog pollution and replace them with clean energy solutions.
3. Work with communities to protect our mountains, lands and waters by keeping our vast coal reserves in the ground

[Read more](#)



Dirty Energy

Coal plants are a leading cause of respiratory illness, they account for over 30% of our nation's carbon dioxide emissions, and, because of impending carbon pricing, are rapidly becoming more expensive. Yet there are still plans to build more than 100 coal-fired power plants across the U.S.

[Read more](#)

News

7.24.09

Coal makes the Cook Mountain Graveyards not so Peaceful

Media intern Natalie Gaber informs us of yet another downside to the coal industry "Rest in peace" is a common wish bestowed upon the dearly departed, but for one West Virginia family's ancestors, th...



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

THE DIRTY TRUTH ABOUT COAL:

Why Yesterday's Technology Should Not
Be Part of Tomorrow's Energy Future



INTRODUCTION

It was more than 100 years ago on the shores of the lower East River in New York City that Thomas Edison opened the Pearl Street Station, the first centralized coal-fired power plant to come on line. More than a century later, coal-fired power plants produce about half of our nation's electricity,¹ and in 2006 a record 1.161 billion tons of coal was mined, most of which went directly to electricity generation.² Unfortunately, coal is also one of the most polluting sources of energy available, jeopardizing our health and our environment.

Pollution created by generating electricity from coal does not start or stop at the power plant. It stretches all the way from the coal mine to long after coal is burned and the electricity has been used in our homes and businesses. Mining and burning coal scars lungs, tears up the land, pollutes water, devastates communities, and makes global warming worse.



MINING HAZARDS

Coal mining causes irreparable harm to our lands, water, and air, and also jeopardizes the health, safety, and economy of nearby communities. In the most destructive type of coal mining, known as mountaintop removal coal mining, a coal company literally blasts apart the tops of mountains to reach thin seams of coal buried below and then, to minimize waste disposal costs, dumps millions of tons of waste rock into the valleys and streams below, causing permanent damage to the ecosystem and landscape. This destructive practice has damaged or destroyed approximately 1,200 miles of streams, disrupted drinking water supplies, flooded communities, damaged homes, eliminated forests, and jeopardizes tourism and recreation.³

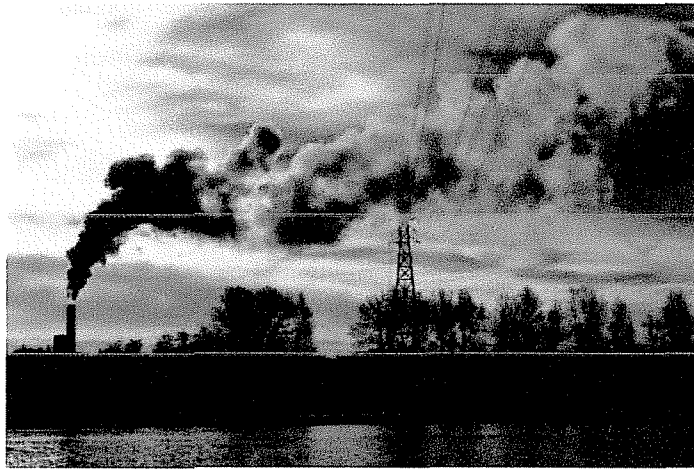
Coal mining is a major source of water pollution, causing acid mine drainage which occurs when abandoned mines fill with water that mixes with heavy metals and then leaks out into

groundwater and streams.⁴ Coal preparation, or “washing,” also causes water pollution when chemicals and water are used to separate impurities from mined coal. Up to 90 million gallons of coal preparation slurry are produced every year in the U.S., most of which are stored in large waste pits known as impoundments.⁵ Impoundments leak into local water supplies and can even burst dramatically, sending millions of gallons of wastes barreling down in mudflows and destroying property and lives.

Additionally, coal mining causes air pollution, including dust and particle pollution that can cause respiratory problems like black lung in coal miners. Coal-laden railcars blow coal dust into the air, causing breathing problems and dirtying the landscape of local communities. Coal mining also causes global warming pollution when it releases heat-trapping methane found in coal seams.⁶

BURNING COAL: OUR NATION'S POWER PLANTS

Coal-fired power plants are one of the largest sources of air pollution in the U.S. The consequences for human health are staggering, especially with regards to particle pollution or soot, one of the most deadly types of air pollution in our country. Soot can trigger heart attacks and strokes, worsen asthma, cause irregular heart-beat, and lead to premature death.⁷ Many scientific studies have also shown that communities of color are disproportionately exposed to harmful air pollution, including pollution from coal-fired power plants. The damages from particle pollution continue after it has settled to the ground, where it causes acidification of waters, soil nutrient depletion, and destruction of forests and crops.⁸



Additionally, coal-fired power plants emit large quantities of toxic air pollutants such as lead and arsenic, and are one of the largest sources of man-made mercury pollution in the U.S.¹² Mercury, which enters our food chain after it rains down into our streams and lakes, poisons fish and seafood and accumulates in the animals and people who eat them. Mercury pollution causes brain damage, mental retardation, and other

developmental problems in unborn children and infants,¹³ and has been linked to a greater risk of coronary heart disease in men.¹⁴ The mercury problem in the U.S. is so widespread that every year one in six women of childbearing age has mercury levels in her blood high enough to put her baby at risk.¹⁵

Not only are coal-fired power plants a major source of soot pollution, they are also one of the largest contributors to smog in the nation.⁹ In addition to health effects like increased risk of asthma attacks, permanent lung damage, and premature death,¹⁰ smog also harms plants and trees. Persistent smog pollution can alter and disrupt plant growth over time, leading to an estimated \$500 million loss due to reduced crop production in the U.S. every year.¹¹

Burning coal also releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollution, a primary culprit in global warming. Even though coal-fired power plants generate just about half of our nation's electricity, they account for almost 40 percent of our nation's carbon dioxide pollution from all sources including transportation.¹⁶ In fact, coal-fired power plants have the highest output rate of carbon dioxide (or carbon intensity) per unit of electricity among all fossil fuels.¹⁷

WHAT REMAINS: THE LEGACY OF COAL COMBUSTION WASTES

Burning coal for electricity also creates several different types of liquid and solid wastes that are known collectively as coal combustion wastes. Taken together, the amount of coal combustion wastes produced is staggering: more than 120 million solid tons every year.¹⁸ This waste alone is enough to fill a million railcars every year, or a train that is 9,600 miles long.¹⁹

Not only is it challenging to find a place to store so much coal combustion waste safely, but even after it is stored coal combustion waste can leak out and pollute the surrounding environment and groundwater. Containing elements like lead, mercury, and arsenic in toxic doses,²⁰ coal combustion wastes and their pollution have been shown to cause illness and death in plants and animals. In humans, where the greatest exposure risk is from polluted groundwater and drinking water,²¹ the toxins have been linked to organ disease, increased cancer, respiratory illness, neurological damage, and developmental



problems.²² In one study, the EPA estimated that more than 21 million people, including more than six million children, lived within five miles of a coal-fired power plant,²³ a daunting figure considering that most coal combustion wastes are stored onsite.

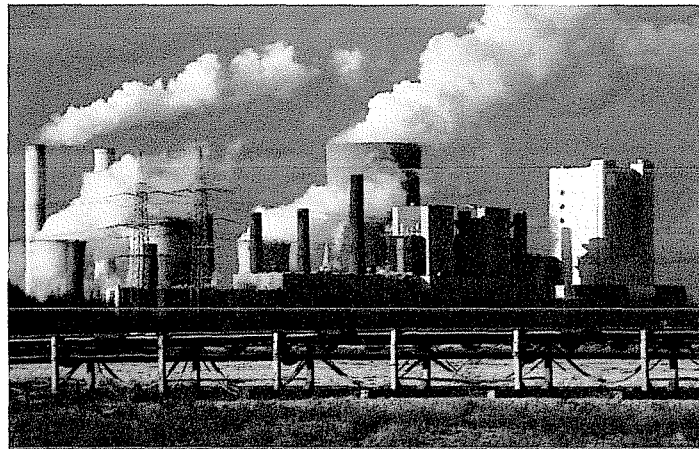
CONCLUSION: "CLEAN COAL," OR AMERICA'S LEAD ENERGY MISNOMER

The coal industry knows it must change or it will be out of business—that is why it is pushing "clean" coal. But, coal as it exists today is anything but clean.

The supposedly "clean coal" technologies that have attracted the most attention in recent years are carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC). As of now, CCS remains an unproven technology, and experts disagree as to how long it will take for this technology to be available for commercial and wide-scale use.²⁴ IGCC unfortunately emits just as much global warming pollution as other coal plants.

The coal industry is also pushing liquid coal as a clean alternative, yet liquid coal creates almost double the carbon dioxide emissions per gallon as regular gasoline, and replacing just 10 percent of our nation's fuel with it would require a more than 40 percent increase in coal mining.^{25, 26}

The truth is that promises of these and other future technological innovations that will allow us to use coal cleanly are not available today.



The challenge of cleaning up the way we mine and use coal is not small by any means. On average, our country consumes more than three million tons of coal every day, or about 20 pounds of coal for every person in the nation every day of the year.²⁷ The good news is that we can reduce our dependence on coal by increasing efficiency and relying more on clean energy power like wind and solar, and we can minimize the damage coal causes by ensuring it is mined responsibly, burned cleanly, and does not take us backward on global warming.

1 Energy Information Administration, "Electric Power Annual: Summary Statistics for the United States," October 2006.

2 Energy Information Administration, "Quarterly Coal Report: October - December 2006," March 22, 2007.

3 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement," 2003 and "Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement," October 2005.

4 U.S. EPA, "Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment: Acid Mine Drainage," updated March 3, 2006.

5 Id.

6 U.S. EPA, "Coalbed Methane Outreach Program," accessed April 4, 2007 at <http://www.epa.gov/cmop/>

7 Id.

8 Id.

9 U.S. EPA, "NOx: How Nitrogen Oxides Affect the Way We Live and Breathe," September 1998.

10 American Lung Association, "State of the Air: 2006."

11 Id.

12 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "EPA to Regulate Mercury and Other Air Toxics Emissions from Coal- and Oil-Fired Power Plants," December 14, 2000.

13 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, "ToxFAQs for Mercury," April 1999.

14 American Heart Association, "Mercury, Fish Oils, and Risk of Acute Coronary Events and Cardiovascular Disease, Coronary Heart Disease, and All-Cause Mortality in Men in Eastern Finland." November 11, 2004.

15 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Methylmercury: Epidemiology Update," presentation by Kathryn Mahaffey, PhD at the National Forum on Contaminants in Fish, San Diego, CA, January 25-28, 2004.

16 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2005," April 2007. Based on calculation of CO2 emissions from tables 3-1 and 3-3.

17 U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Carbon Dioxide Emissions from the Generation of Electric Power in the United States." July 2000.

18 National Research Council, "Managing Coal Combustion Residues in Mines," 2006.

19 Id.

20 Id.

21 Id.

22 Id.

23 Id.

24 See for example, MIT, "The Future of Coal," March 2007.

25 Williams, Robert et al., "Synthetic fuels in a world with high oil and carbon prices," 8th International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies, June 2006.

26 The National Coal Council, "Coal: America's Energy Future," March 2006.

27 Calculation based on U.S. coal consumption (see EIA "Quarterly Coal Report: October - December 2006") and U.S. population. Inspired by similar calculation performed by the Union of Concerned Scientists.



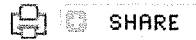
For more information: 408 C STREET, NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002 (202) 547-1141

www.sierraclub.org/coal

Reprinted May 2008

Print view for <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/overview.aspx>
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[homepage](#) - [goals](#) - [coal](#) - the truth behind coal



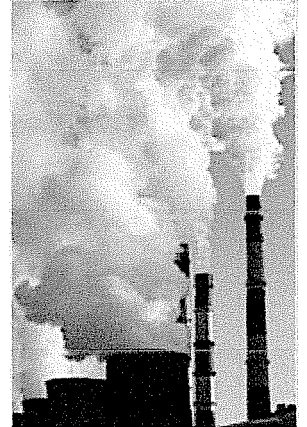
Beyond Coal

The Truth Behind Coal

From the mine to the plant coal is one of our dirtiest sources of energy, causing asthma and other health problems, destroying our mountains and releasing toxic mercury into our air.

In addition to the hundreds of old coal plants currently operating across the country, plans are on the drawing board for dozens of new mountaintop removal coal mines and over 100 new coal plants.

Coal already produces about half of our nation's energy and almost 30% of our nation's carbon dioxide emissions, the lead cause of global warming. Coal plants are also major sources of soot, smog and mercury pollution, which can worsen asthma, increase the risk of heart attacks and even cause developmental disorders in children.



Continuing our dependence on coal chains us to the dirty energy and prevents us from making the changes we need to bring about a clean, secure energy future for our children and grandchildren.

It's time to repower, rebuild and refuel America; that means stopping construction of new coal plants, cleaning up and retiring the old coal plants that are the worst contributors to respiratory illnesses, and keeping our remaining coal in the ground so we don't worsen the problem.

We need to move beyond the polluting coal power of the past and start investing in clean energy technologies that will boost the economy, create jobs and help the climate recover.

Stopping the Coal Rush Map < [Return to the Coal homepage](#)



Directions: Click on the icons on the map above or on the names on the list below to learn more about current or recent coal plant challenges, get key resources, and more.

Note: Not all of the plants mapped are Sierra Club cases; other environmental organizations are taking the lead on certain plants. The map is meant to provide a more comprehensive picture for the benefit of the broader environmental community.

Legend: Click on the following icons to hide and show coal plants with different Status:








Victory! Active Upcoming Uncertain Progressing No Status

[See plants in Google Earth \(KMZ file\)](#)

[See List of Coal Plants By State](#)

Stop

[Close](#)**Update: April 2009**

On April 7, 2009, Sierra Club, Kentucky Environmental Foundation, and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth unveiled a new report disputing East Kentucky Power Cooperative's (EKPC) need for its proposed Smith coal-fired power plant in Clark County. The groups commissioned the study by a New York-based public policy and financial consulting firm, which explains why the plant is bad for both the environment and the co-op's struggling finances. The report recommends that EKPC abandon the coal plant in favor of enhanced energy efficiency programs, renewable energy sources, and natural gas.

EKPC provides electricity to 16 member co-ops that power more than half a million homes, farms and businesses in Central and Eastern Kentucky. The report points out that while nationally, utilities obtain about 50% of their electricity by burning coal, EKPC uses 97% coal. According to the report, abandoning plans for yet another coal plant would save the co-op around \$500 million in long-term debt. This is good news for ratepayers who would avoid an additional price increase of at least 5% to recover the costs of building and operating the new plant. EKPC's members have already experienced a 57% increase in the cost of electricity between 2002 and 2007.

To view the Executive Summary, Full Report, and Power Point Presentation, click [here](#).

The KY DAQ continues to review EKPC's air permit application.

Update: April 6, 2009

On April 6, 2009, the Sierra Club filed comments on East Kentucky Power Cooperative's (EKPC) Section 404 Clean Water Act permit application to fill waters of the United States in order to construct a coal plant at its J.K. Smith Power Station. EKPC plans to bury tens of thousands of feet of streams and more than 2 acres of wetlands under 16.57 million cubic yards of coal ash. These coal ash dumps, which are adjacent to the Kentucky River, threaten drinking water supplies for downstream communities, including Lexington and Frankfort. In its comments, the Club explained why EKPC's application is incomplete and why the permitting process should be put on hold.

Update: February 2009

On February 18, 2009, Sierra Club filed comments on the deficiencies of the Class II particulate matter (PM) modeling that EKPC submitted as part of the air quality permit application it submitted for its proposed expansion of its J.K. Smith plant.

Update: January 2009 - March 2009

The [Kentucky Division of Air Quality](#) (DAQ) continues to review EKPC's air permit application.

Update: March 2008

On March 3, 2008, Sierra Club, Kentucky Environmental Foundation and Center for Biological Diversity sued the federal Rural Utilities Service (RUS) arguing that the RUS failed to properly conduct an environmental assessment of East Kentucky Power's plans to build a new coal-fired plant and transmission lines at its J.K. Smith power station in Clark County. The groups argue that the RUS should have assessed the potential environmental effects from the new plant and the transmission lines in one environmental assessment rather than looking at each project separately.

Update: September 2007

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In 2006, the Kentucky PSC granted a certificate to EKPC for their Smith Plant, a 278 MW coal-fired power plant proposed for Clark County. Construction is scheduled to begin by December 2007. The PSC re-examined the need for this plant after Warren RECC announced plans to remain with its current power supplier. However on May 11, 2007, the PSC announced after reviewing the proposed plans for the plant, they would continue to support EKPC'S Smith plant.

The air permit application for the plant is still being reviewed at the EPA Region IV office, but the draft permit is expected to come out any day.

Background:

East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) has proposed construction of new dirty coal plants. The 278 megawatt pulverized coal-fired plant will be located in Clark County, Kentucky, southeast of Winchester, KY. EKPC is planning to have one of the plants operating by June 2010 and the other operating by November 2012. The Rural Utilities Service, a division of USDA, had a scoping period for a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) on the project and the Sierra Club submitted comments.

[See Case Documents and Other Related Information](#)

[Password required - contact the Sierra Club Environmental Law Program.](#)

[Close](#)

KFTC's Position on Coal

Adopted August 6, 2007

Coal Is Here Today And Tomorrow – But For How Much Longer?

Today, coal is still an important part of Kentucky's economy. Coal generates over 95% of our electricity in Kentucky and coal fired power plants dot our landscape from far western Kentucky to Ashland. The coalfields feature billions of dollars of coal mining infrastructure from tipples to rail lines to the coalmines themselves. Obviously, coal is here today and it will be here tomorrow. But coal will not be here forever. Geologists, mining engineers, and energy economists debate the finer points of coal's future, but most agree – and most coal miners know – most of the coal that can be mined easily and inexpensively in eastern Kentucky has already been mined. The five major coal seams that have produced almost all of Kentucky's coal have been severely depleted. Coal is a finite resource and there are only a few years left of coal mining as we know it today. Bold predictions of coal mining deep into the future in Appalachia are really only guesses. Extensive new mining in Appalachia can only be done if customers are willing to pay much higher costs and if coalfield residents are willing to accept even greater destruction of the land and water. We believe if a block of coal cannot be mined without causing the physical, emotional, spiritual, and cultural destruction that we experience so often today, that block of coal should be left in the ground.

Kentucky is at historic turning point. Global climate change, severe depletion of Kentucky's economically recoverable coal, carbon taxes, Kentucky's dependence on coal for electricity are all coming together, right now, to create a time of great changes where there will be great challenges and opportunities.

We believe Kentucky can and must stop the destruction, mine coal safely and responsibly, and phase out our dependence on coal while we phase in a new sustainable economy with safe, sustainable, living wage jobs, and new, renewable sources of energy.

Coal Is Part Of Our Kentucky Heritage And Culture

The history of Kentucky is shaped by coal, the coal industry and especially by coal miners and other coal industry workers. We are Kentuckians, which means we are coal miners, the families and friends of coal miners, and the descendents of coal miners. Thousands of families across Kentucky have been raised on the wages of a coal miner's job.

Coal miners are celebrated in our culture and memory for performing the most difficult and dangerous job in the harshest conditions. Coal miners' efforts for the right to organize have always been met with powerful resistance – sometimes with violent resistance – from the coal companies. Coal miners' efforts to make the mines safe have been a constant struggle against strong coal companies and weak enforcement agencies.

For decades, coal miners have gone to work every day deep underground with heavy machinery by their side and a mountain over their head. So many coal miners have been killed in the mines that people believe – wrongly – it is an inevitable part of mining.

Historically, coal miners were the economic backbone of their families, their churches, and their communities. But in the past decades, coal miner's jobs have disappeared, even as coal production has remained strong. Coal companies mine more coal with bigger machines and more explosives – but fewer

miners – every year.

Kentucky owes coal miners and other coal industry workers our respect, gratitude, and – as the coal industry continues to change and shrink – alternatives.

We are also the families, descendants, and heirs of those who have fought to protect their land, their homes, and their communities from the most abusive practices of the coal companies and coal industry. We are inspired and reassured by the memory of the Widow Combs, Uncle Dan Gibson, Doris Shepherd, Sidney Cornett, Elizabeth Wooten, Gladys Maynard, Joe Begley and the thousands of famous and unknown Kentuckians who have fought to protect the rights of workers, to protect the rights of landowners, and to protect the mountains of Appalachia.

Coal Does Not Produce Prosperity For The Coalfields

The coal industry claims that they will bring prosperity if we are just patient. The fact is, the coal industry has not and will not bring prosperity to coalfield communities. They provide an ever dwindling number of jobs and a big economic windfall to a few, well-placed political figures. But the fact is that the counties that have produced billions of dollars worth of coal in eastern Kentucky are still among the poorest counties in America. Coal has been mined in eastern Kentucky for over one hundred years. If the coal industry was going to produce prosperity for us, shouldn't they have done it by now?

Government on every level, federal, state and local has failed the people of the coal producing region for generations and has been complicit in allowing the extraction of billions of dollars worth of coal while not compelling the industry to contribute towards building a high quality of life. It is essential that government now become part of the solution. As the era of coal comes to a close in Kentucky it is imperative that the coal industry immediately stop its destructive practices and funds the transition to the next economy in SE Kentucky. Our political leaders must stop catering to what the coal industry wants and instead work toward creating a strong, diverse, and sustainable economy for Kentucky and the coalfields.

Coal Is Not Cheap Or Clean

The big myth is that coal is a cheap source of energy. Coal is very expensive. But the coal industry is very skilled at keeping their market price down by forcing the true cost of coal onto other people. Those of us who have lost our land, our water, our natural environment, our community, or, most tragically, a family member to the irresponsible actions of the coal industry know that coal is not cheap. Coal should be made to pay its own way, and the market price of coal should reflect the true cost of mining and burning that coal.

And, coal is not clean. In some ways, it is cleaner than it used to be, and it can almost certainly be made cleaner than it is today. But no use of coal from mining to hauling to burning to disposing of the waste can fairly be described as clean. "Clean coal technology" is a new myth, created by the coal industry's publicity experts and their political supporters to try and gain even more government subsidies for the coal industry.

Stop The Destruction – Mine Coal Safely And Responsibly

Today, even when it is being mined legally, coal is not being mined safely or responsibly. Mountaintop removal is perhaps the most obvious and apparent example of the devastation left in the wake of coal mining, but it is not the only example. Our groundwater and surface water are being polluted and eliminated. Enforcement agencies regularly fail to enforce reclamation and mining laws. Our homes and communities are damaged by blasting, flooding, and subsidence. Our roads crumble under the weight of

overloaded coal trucks and people die each year from coal truck accidents. Some families have had their land stolen by dishonest coal operators. Some families have been split apart by the tactics of land and mineral companies. And, underground and surface miners continue to face hardship in difficult, often underpaid coal jobs. Some die every year in tragic accidents that did not need to occur.

The Canary Project has four main goals:

1. We want coal companies to obey the law, and enforcement agencies to enforce it!
2. We want new laws where existing laws are inadequate to protect our homes and communities!
3. We want a new sustainable economy with good jobs in the coalfields!
4. We want new, survivable energy sources for the nation!

To achieve these goals, we are supporting a number of initiatives.

- Immediately halt mountaintop removal and other forms of radical strip mining that are eliminating the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.
- Immediately stop the valley fills that are burying our precious headwater streams.
- Improve coalmine safety with new regulations to prevent accidents and help miners escape, if there are accidents, and especially stronger enforcement of existing regulations.
- Support the rights of miners to organize their workplace. Union mines are safer and provide better pay, benefits, and job security for the coal miners.
- Force the coal companies to follow the law – fairly and vigorously enforce the letter and spirit of the surface and underground mining laws that were designed to protect the land and people.
- Accelerate the inevitable transition back to underground mining. If we use responsible underground mining with better safety protections for the miners, there will be less destruction and more jobs.
- Stop the rush to build new coal fired power plants, expensive, government subsidized clean coal illusions, and coal conversion schemes.
- Instead, invest our resources in locally generated, sustainable economic development for the coalfields and clean renewable energy sources for the country.

We Want A Better Future For Our Children and Grandchildren

We believe that a better future – beyond coal – is possible for the Kentucky coalfields. We have much to be proud of and to build on including skilled workers, resilient communities, natural beauty, valuable resources such as mountains, forests, and water, and a rich culture. But we must be smart to create a just and prosperous future, and it won't happen if we continue to allow the coal industry to control the economy and wipe out our land, water, homes, and communities.

To build a better future, we have to phase out the subsidizing of the coal industry and phase in efforts that invest in our people and our region. We can have good jobs and a strong economy if we invest in local people, create excellent schools, and demand a real democracy with political leadership that will represent the interests of Kentucky, not coal companies.

There are many possibilities for long-term, sustainable development in the region. One place we can begin is with something we know a lot about – energy. Kentucky could phase in plans and programs that can make Eastern Kentucky a source of renewable energy if we only choose to invest our intelligence and our resources in new ideas rather than sacrificing our future to the demands of the coal companies. Kentucky could develop a modern tourism industry in the mountains. Eastern Kentucky could become a hub in the information economy with the right public and private investment in infrastructure, education, and training. The possibilities are great.

The High Road Initiative

To help create the policies and practices that can make our vision of a better future a reality, we have helped launch the High Road Initiative. Through this partnership with ally organizations, we will assess Kentucky's current economic development system, learn from other states and schools of thought, and develop a roadmap of policies and models that can build a better future. The goals of the High Road Initiative include:

Expand Opportunity and Prosperity — Invest in New Strategies:

The greatest justification for using public funds to create jobs is to improve the prosperity of communities that struggle with challenging economic conditions. Kentucky communities suffering from economic challenges are often those whose heritage and culture are best preserved and represent an exceptional opportunity for innovative and creative approaches to make the most of those qualities.

Create an Effective and Accountable Economic Development System:

Kentucky needs to reorganize its economic development system and governance to include a unified development budget (showing budget and tax expenditures in one place), a comprehensive state strategy, greater public accountability, broader participation and better coordination between departments and agencies.

Invest in the Foundations of a Strong Economy:

Kentucky must make sufficient investment in the basic building blocks of a community. An economy can thrive when there is a system of lifelong education, a fair and adequate tax system, technologically current infrastructures, improved social services and accessible health care. Strengthening these fundamentals improves the quality of life, raises the possibility for innovation and creativity and expands opportunities for more people and businesses.

Strengthen and Respect Community Standards — Create Meaningful Public Participation:

The collective knowledge and experience of Kentucky's educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, local governments, private business and the general public should be included in the process of crafting effective economic development plans. Greater community input insures that the

standards of economic conduct are reflective of the community's values.

Conclusion:

Coal has shaped the economy, the environment, and the politics of Eastern Kentucky for the past century. Today, we have new opportunities. We do not have to serve the coal industry any longer, but can instead serve the interests of all the people of Kentucky. All this and more is possible for our coalfield communities if we demand it and our political leaders have the vision and courage to help make it happen.



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Clean Air, Clean Energy

New analysis reveals investment in green energy would create thousands of jobs in KY:

"An Analysis of the Economic Impact of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the East Kentucky Power Cooperative Region"
prepared by the Ochs Center

July 9 press release announcing new report
"More than 8,000 New Clean Energy Jobs Possible in KY"

KEF, KFTC and the Sierra Club release assessment of EKPC's Integrated Resource Plan:

"Preliminary Assessment of East Kentucky Power Cooperative's 2009 Resource Plan"
prepared by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.

June 10 press release announcing "Preliminary Assessment"
"Co-op utility unprepared for future of carbon regulation, may put members at risk for up to \$600 million."

Earthjustice & Environmental Integrity Project (EJ/EIP) release report: **"Coming Clean: What the EPA Knows about the Dangers of Coal Ash"**

May 7 EJ/EIP Press Release "Data showing significantly higher cancer risks for U.S. residents near coal-fired power plant ash dump sites were hidden for years by Bush Administration."

Report Attachments:
#1 "Surface impoundments analyzed in EPA Risk Assessment"
#2 "Landfills Analyzed in EPA Risk Assessment"
#3 "Surface Impoundment & Landfill Disposal Data Reported 2005"

"Financial experts raise red flags on new coal projects: clean energy, not coal best investment for the South"

April 29 Press Release

KEF, KFTC and the Sierra Club release new report

"The Right Decision for Changing Times: How East Kentucky Power Cooperative Ratepayers Benefit from Canceling Plans for a New Coal Burning Power Plant in Clark County"

Power Point Presentation

April 7 press release announcing "The Right Decision" report
"Proposed power plant would put Kentucky co-op utility in financial peril"

KEF's Issues

- Safe Chemical Weapons Disposal
- Clean Air - Clean Energy
- Toxic-Free Future
- Environmentally Sustainable Neighbors/Depot

News

Public News Service

07/15/09 "Report: 8,000 Clean Energy Jobs Possible in Kentucky"

Winchester Sun

07/14/09 "Report says renewable energy, efficiency good for job growth"

Winchester Sun

07/08/09 "Cleaner energy is a moral obligation"

E&E News PM

06/29/09 "Coal: EPA reveals locations of 'high-hazard ash dumps'"

Greenwire

06/22/09 "Coal: Mining's human toll outweighs economic benefits -WVU study"

Climatewire

06/19/09 "Carbon Capture: Sardy calls for billions in coal plant retrofits"

06/19/09 "Lobbying: Rural electric co-ops threaten climate deal"

06/16/09 "Emissions: Chiu predicts that energy efficiency will bring the fastest reductions"

SNL Financial

06/10/09 "Kentucky co-op draws additional criticism for proposed coal plant expansion"

"Lexington Herald-Leader

06/11/09 "Report questions East Ky. Power plans"

Greenwire

06/03/09 "Soot exposure significantly increases death risk - study"

06/03/09 "Ky. utility brings court-ordered scrubbers online"

Lexington Herald-Leader

05/08/09 "Six Kentucky coal ash landfills are hazardous - groups say"

Public News Service

05/08/09 "EPA: Higher Cancer Risk for Kentuckians Due to Coal Ash Waste"

Washington Post

05/03/09 "EPA Moves to Regulate Contaminated Runoff From Power Plants"

Floyd CountyTimes

04/27/09 "Suit claims power plant is dangerous"

New York Times

04/24/09 "Dust from coal trucks poses Appalachian health threat-study"

USA Today

04/18/09 "EPA takes first steps toward climate change regulations"

Lexington Herald-Leader

04/17/09 "EPA declares fossil fuel emissions a threat to health, environment"

"No to Nuclear Energy in KY" Press Event

On Friday, February 13th, representatives from five Kentucky environmental organizations came together for a press conference to speak out against proposed legislation in the Kentucky House and Senate that would clear the way for nuclear energy projects. Represented at the event were: Kentucky Environmental Foundation; the Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club; EcoPerspectives; Kentucky Solar Partnership; and Kentucky Conservation Committee.

Press Release: "Groups Urge To Oppose Nuclear Energy in KY Urge Legislators To Pursue Clean, Safe Energy"

Organizational Statements **Concerning Nuclear Energy in KY**

"Energy debate & switch": FEEDBACK in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*

The following two commentaries--the first written by Elizabeth Crowe, Director of KEF, the second by Rick Clewitt, Co-chair of the Cumberland Sierra Club Political Committee-- appeared in the FEEDBACK section of the January 26, 2009 issue of the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

"Co-ops can't just stop up"

"Beshar's energy plan needs work"

Sustainable Business.com

04/20/09 "EPA Takes Major Step Toward Regulating Greenhouse Gases"

Morehead News

04/21/09 "Group takes stand against electric rate increases"

Lexington Herald-Leader

04/10/09 "Environmentalists say costs are too high for new plant"

Richmond Register

04/09/09 "KEF against coal plant in Clark Co."

Public News Service

04/08/09 "Financial Report: Proposed Eastern KY Coal Power Plant Doesn't Pan Out"

Lexington Herald-Leader

04/01/09 "East KY Power rates to rise 7%"

Posted on YouTube

"Making the Case for Energy Efficiency in Utility Companies" a presentation by Glenn Cannon, past president of the American Public Power Association

Seattle Times

03/17/09 "Study: Appalachian states could save billions, create many jobs by cutting energy consumption"

The study is available for download at www.nrc.gov/energy and at www.seesalliance.org

Publications

- "A Portfolio of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Options for East Kentucky Power Cooperative" Susan M. Zinga and Andy Mc Donald, February 2008
- Energy Portfolio Errors

Links to More Information

- "Asthma and Air Pollution" National Resources Defense Council, 2005
- "Asthma and the Role of Air Pollution: What the Primary Care Physician Should Know" Physicians for Social Responsibility, 1997
- "Autism Risk Linked To Distance From Power Plants, Other Mercury-releasing Sources" Science Daily, April 2008
- "Cardiovascular Risks From Fine Particulate Air Pollution" New England Journal of Medicine, February 2007
- "Children at Risk: How Air Pollution from Power Plants Threatens the Health of America's Children" Clear the Air/Physicians for Social Responsibility, May 2002
- "Clean Air, Dirty Coal Power" Sierra Club
- "Coal-Fired Power Plants: Understanding Health Costs of a Dirty Energy Source" Physicians for Social Responsibility
- "Death, Disease & Dirty Power" Clean Air Task Force, October 2000
- "Dirty Air, Dirty Power: Mortality and Health Damage Due to Air Pollution from Power Plants" Clear the Air/Clean Air Task Force, June 2004
- "Lung Cancer, Cardiopulmonary Mortality, and Long-term Exposure to Fine Particulate Air Pollution" Journal of the American Medical Association, March 2002
- "Proximity to point sources of environmental mercury release as a predictor of autism prevalence" University of Texas Health Science Center, February 2008