

Kentucky’s largest utility proposes more gas-fired power plants

Plan would delay retirement of coal-fired unit

BY LIAM NIEMEYER
KENTUCKY LANTERN

Kentucky’s largest utility is proposing to delay the retirement of a coal-fired power plant unit and move forward with building billions of dollars of gas-fired power generation as part of a proposed settlement agreement before the state utility regulator.

The proposed settlement offered by Louisville Gas and Electric and Kentucky Utilities (LG&E and KU) this week would build two new natural gas-fired power plants, each with a capacity of 645 megawatts, costing a total of more than \$2.7 billion. Mill Creek 2, one of four coal-fired units at the utility’s Mill Creek Generating Station, would have its planned retirement delayed from 2027 until one of the new gas-fired power plants is operational in 2031.

The settlement is a part of a months-long case LG&E and KU brought before the Kentucky Public Service Commission requesting to build more fossil fuel-fired power generation that the utility says is needed to meet “unprecedented” projected energy demand driven by an influx of data centers.

“As Kentucky’s largest regulated utilities, we have an obligation to serve all customers and new economic development load in the lowest reasonable cost manner. This agreement reflects the importance of that role and the critical needs addressed in our long-term generation investment plans,” said LG&E and KU president John Crockett in a released statement.

The proposed settlement — which the commission could approve, deny or change — was agreed to by groups including Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers representing energy-intensive manufacturers; the Kentucky Coal Association; the Southern Renewable Energy Association; and Republican Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman, who praised the settlement as promoting “affordable and reliable energy for Kentucky families.”

“This agreement taps into Kentucky’s abundant natural resources and our ‘all-of-the-above’ energy strategy to power the commonwealth’s bright future,” said Coleman in a statement. “By securing our affordable energy future, we’ve also kept our commonwealth open for new business investment, job creation and economic growth.”

Coleman also touted the settlement for proposing to partially and temporarily offset the costs of one of the proposed gas-fired plants through revenues associated with data centers.

However, intervenors in the case representing affordable housing advocates in



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LG&E and KU’s coal-fired Mill Creek Generating Station in Louisville is shown.

Louisville, environmental stakeholders and others lambasted the settlement as saddling Kentuckians with billions of dollars of “costly, polluting infrastructure based on hypothetical future demand.”

Byron Gary, an attorney for the environmental legal group Kentucky Resources Council representing the intervenors, in a statement said the settlement “prioritizes corporate interests over affordability, public health, and climate action.”

Tony Curtis, the executive of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition in Louisville, one of the intervenors opposed to the settlement, in a statement said the “risk and cost” of building two new gas-fired power plants based on “speculative need is not in the best interest of ratepayers, especially low-and fixed-income residents.”

Curtis said data centers driving the energy demand, not ratepayers, should bear the risk with proposed gas-fired generation.

Intervenors critical of the proposed settlement also stated they were disappointed in local governments for Louisville and Lexington not advocating for each cities’ goals to mitigate climate change. The two cities’ leaders agreed to not oppose the proposed settlement. A spokesperson for Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg did not provide a response to emailed questions about the proposed settlement.

Susan Straub, a spokesperson for Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton, in an emailed statement said the city was “not comfortable with the level of additional power generation permitted in the settlement.” But the city did

support other aspects of it, such LG&E and KU removing an additional request to build a utility-scale battery storage system.

An influx of prospective data centers, some to power artificial intelligence services, has created a projected surge of demand for electricity across the country, though it’s unclear whether a number of proposed data centers will be built. Data centers have also driven an increase in electricity costs for ratepayers.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission will begin a public hearing on LG&E and KU’s case and the proposed settlement Aug. 4 at 9 a.m. ET at its Frankfort office.

The hearing will be broadcasted live on the agency’s YouTube channel.

Kentucky Lantern is a nonprofit news site covering state government and politics.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 @ 10:00 CDT

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Also included are three homes with numerous building improvements including garages, shops, barns, shed and storage facilities. Whether you are an investor or farmers seeking income-producing property, a recreational buyer looking for hunting land, or a family wanting to establish a country homestead, this auction presents an outstanding opportunity. The farms will be offered in tracts, allowing buyers to bid on individual parcels or combine multiple tracts to suit their specific goals. Join us on-site for the auction on Sat., August 9 at 10AM CDT, located at 2934 Cave Springs Rd, Greenville, KY 42345.

AUCTION LOCATION: 2934 CAVE SPRINGS RD, GREENVILLE, KY

5 Farms selling in Tracts. Watch next week for full details or visit UHeartlandAuctions.com

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ESTATE

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Wednesday, Aug. 20th - 10 AM

LOCATION: 926 Holly Ave., Owensboro, KY
(3 blocks east of Carter Rd., south of Cravens Ave.)

3 BEDROOM HOME



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FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT KELSEY EDGE, AUCTIONEER

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AUCTION


Tuesday, Aug. 5 - 10 AM

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OPEN HOUSE
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5-6 PM




1985 Winnieago


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For more info, contact Joseph Mills, Auctioneer

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CARS - TRUCKS

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PRE-REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6th
2:00-4:00 PM

Owners: City of Owensboro, Various Agencies

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MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE
UMB BANK N.A. V.
SCOTTIE W. BARTLETT, ET AL.
CIVIL ACTION NO.
18-CI-00253, MAP #74-49
AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT:
\$14,846.85
ADDRESS:
3560 THRUSTON DERMONT RD., OWENSBORO, KY
By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of the Daviess Circuit Court the undersigned will, on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 10:00 AM, at the Courthouse 2nd Floor Fiscal Court Room in Owensboro, ?y., expose to PUBLIC SALE the above real estate. For a complete legal description of the property see the Court record in the Circuit Clerk's Office.
TERMS: CASH OR 10% DOWN & BALANCE 30 DAYS. If on credit purchaser must post bond with approved surety for the balance of the purchase price, plus 6% interest per annum from the date of said bond. The buyer shall be responsible for the current year's property taxes. MASTER COMMISSIONER