

Kentucky Power asks PSC for approval for Mitchell Plant cooling tower project

SPECIAL TO APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

Kentucky Power said in a statement on Feb. 17 that it has filed an application with the Kentucky Public Service Commission seeking approval to construct a new cooling tower at the Mitchell Plant in West Virginia. The statement said the project is necessary to ensure continued access to reliable baseload energy at the lowest cost for customers.

Kentucky Power, the statement said, will invest approximately \$95.5 million to rebuild

the cooling tower. For the average residential customer using 1,206 kWh per month, the monthly bill is expected to rise about 2.3 percent when the project is completed in 2029, the statement said.

Beginning in 2027, customers may see smaller, temporary rate impacts of roughly 1 percent during construction; these early impacts are not in addition to the 2.3 percent projected for 2029, Kentucky Power said in the statement.

Kentucky Power's share of Mitchell Plant, the statement said, represents approximately

780 megawatts of baseload coal-fired power serving customers across Eastern Kentucky. The statement said the new cooling tower will help ensure the plant is available to serve customers now and in the future.

The Mitchell cooling tower project, the statement said, addresses structural deterioration identified during recent reinforcement work. Engineering evaluations determined that continued long-term operation of the current structure is not viable, and construction of a new cooling tower is critical, the statement said.

"We have seen the value of having a baseload generation available, especially in times of extreme weather like we experienced at the end of January," said Cindy Wiseman, president and chief operating officer of Kentucky Power. "Although there are some customers who do not like that this plant is located in a neighboring state, continued investment in our coal plant is hands down the most reasonable solution for customers from both a reliability and cost standpoint. Building a new cooling tower protects reliability, avoids the loss of existing generation,

and helps ensure we can continue to deliver dependable energy to our customers in the most affordable way possible."

The proposed project will undergo review by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. The West Virginia Public Service Commission will also review and issue an order on this project since Mitchell Plant is jointly owned with Wheeling Power. Additional information about the filing is available on the Kentucky Public Service Commission's website.

The case number is 2026-00001.

Holocaust survivor and longtime civil and human rights activist John M. Rosenberg to receive ABA Medal

SPECIAL TO APPALACHIAN NEWSPAPERS

The American Bar Association announced in a statement Feb. 20 that it will award John M. Rosenberg, executive director emeritus of the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund (AppalReD), the 2026 ABA Medal. Rosenberg will accept the award at the ABA Annual Conference in Chicago in August.

The ABA Medal is bestowed upon a lawyer for exceptionally distinguished service to the cause of American jurisprudence.

"I'm really honored to receive this award," Rosenberg said. "I would like to think that I'm rep-

resenting the other public interest lawyers in this country, especially those who provide civil services to the poor and the public defenders, and the members of the private bar who volunteer to help with these important cases."

"From escaping the Nazis and the Holocaust to serving in the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and prosecuting the Ku Klux Klan to founding AppalReD Legal Aid in Kentucky, John Rosenberg has dedicated his life to fairness and equity. His commitment to access to justice and the rule of law has helped lay the foundation to make justice a reality for all," said ABA President Michelle A. Behnke.

Throughout his ca-

reer, Rosenberg has distinguished himself by helping people who were considered underserved and vulnerable, especially in the Eastern Kentucky community where he has lived for more than five decades as well as throughout the nation. His pursuit of justice in all forms has been relentless.

From early in his career, fighting against the inequities of voter suppression laws in the South, to later challenging issues of poverty, environment, housing and education amongst other areas, protecting the rights of people has been at the forefront of Rosenberg's life of serving others.

Born in Magdeburg, Germany, Rosenberg in

1938 at the age of seven, along with his parents, were pulled from their home by Nazis. They were kept in an internment camp for a year in Rotterdam, Holland, before securing passage to the United States in 1940. The family lived in South Carolina and North Carolina where Rosenberg became an Eagle Scout and went on to attend Duke University where he joined the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps program and upon graduation served for three years as a navigator and instructor navigator in the U.S. Air Force. He was the first in his family to go to college. He went on to study law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

and graduated amid the Civil Rights Movement.

He immediately went to work as a lawyer in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and litigated discrimination cases for about eight years largely in the South where he worked on high-profile civil rights cases, including the case where three voter registration workers — James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner — were killed in Neshoba County, Mississippi. He also successfully tried the first voting rights case in the South after passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Rosenberg met his wife, Jean, in the Civil Rights Division, where

they worked together.

In 1970, a trip to Eastern Kentucky opened an opportunity for Rosenberg to work to address symptomatic issues of poverty and assist low-income residents with their legal needs. Rosenberg led AppalReD Legal Aid as director and emeritus director for more than 28 years.

Throughout his career, Rosenberg has earned numerous awards. In 2023, The University of Kentucky conferred an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters highlighting his distinguished career in helping the people of Kentucky and for training UK law students to work in vulnerable

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