

UK King’s Daughters welcomes interventional cardiologist

ASHLAND, Ky. – UK King’s Daughters welcomes interventional cardiologist Emmanuel Akuna, M.D., to its medical staff, joining the team at UK King’s Daughters Cardiology.

Dr. Akuna earned his medical degree at Windsor University School of Medicine in Cayon, St. Kitts & Nevis in 2019 and completed an internal medicine residency at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago in 2022. His cardiovascular medicine (2025) and interventional cardiology (2026) fellowships were completed at Jefferson Health Einstein Philadelphia Hospital in Pennsylv-

vania.

He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Interventional cardiologists specialize in the minimally invasive diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease, including cardiac catheterization, angioplasty and stenting. Dr. Akuna also provides care for patients with angina, valve disease, heart failure and cardiac arrhythmias.

New patients are welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 606-324-4745. Dr. Akuna sees patients in Suite 230, Medical Plaza B, 613 23rd St., Ashland.



Emmanuel Akuna, MD (submitted photo)

Federal government to turn a Kentucky uranium plant into an AI data center and gas power complex

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Energy is harnessing the artificial intelligence boom in its bid to convert another Cold War-era uranium enrichment site, tapping private equity to fund a \$100 billion data center complex that will include its own new natural gas and battery storage power plant in Kentucky.

The department selected investment firm Brookfield Asset Management to develop and operate the data center at the government-owned Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. In March, the department announced a similar project at its Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Ohio.

Both are undergoing extensive cleanup, decontamination and decommissioning after decades of fueling the nation's nuclear weapons and power plants. The project is in line with the Trump administration's efforts to make artificial intelligence superiority over China a top national security and economic priority.

The federal government is transforming former DOE sites into "engines of innovation and economic growth" to "ensure the United States wins the A.I. race," Energy Secretary Chris Wright said in a statement Wednesday.

"There will be a lot of new natural gas power plants, a large data center, thousands of jobs and tens

of billions of dollars of investment in rural western Kentucky," Wright said on the Fox News show "Fox & Friends."

Earlier in July, the Department of Energy said it had picked engineering contractor Amentum to negotiate a lease to develop an AI data center and on-site power plant at South Carolina's Savannah River Site, a massive complex where the federal government once produced materials used in nuclear weapons, primarily tritium and plutonium-239.

Real estate, energy and data center services are cornerstones in the investment portfolio of New York-headquartered Brookfield, which reports that it has more than \$1 trillion in assets under management.

A Brookfield spokesperson estimated that 30% of the \$100 billion in spending would go toward construction of the data center and power components, with the rest of the money being spent on the equipment in the data centers, including servers, routers and semiconductor chips.

Discussions were ongoing with commercial partners to use the data center space, Brookfield spokesperson Simon Maine said.

Other partners in the Paducah project are power generation and transmission giant NextEra Energy and local utilities.

Florida-based NextEra Energy will build and

own the power generation components, which are to include 2 gigawatts of natural gas-fired generation, upgrades to transmission networks and 2.6 gigawatts of battery energy storage to support a new 1.8 gigawatt AI data center campus, the department said.

The plant would be the largest gas-fired power plant in Kentucky. A single gigawatt, according to a general industry standard for utilities, can power about 750,000 homes.

A power service agreement must be approved by state utility regulators, and excess electricity would be delivered to the regional grid. Construction was expected to be complete in 2031, the department said.

Cleanup is continuing at the roughly 3,550-acre Paducah plant site, which was on a list of 16 federal sites released last year as locations where the department could invite technology companies to build data management and storage capacity.

It shut down in 2013 and the gaseous diffusion process to enrich uranium is considered obsolete.

The department has projected that cleanup at the Paducah site would be completed in 2065 at a cost of about \$17 billion, including demolishing buildings, disassembling uranium converters, removing refrigerant and treating a large plume of groundwater contamination.

In the meantime, the department is working on

plans to provide some of the uranium waste being stored for decades at the Paducah site to a pair of companies seeking to use newer technologies to re-enrich it for use in power plants.

Group raises questions about projects

A newly formed group called Protect McCracken County has raised questions about the uranium enrichment and data center projects, saying that the work is being carried out beside a river that 5 million people downstream drink from without an independent study of the impact.

Byron Gary, a senior attorney for the environmental and public health advocacy group Kentucky Resources Council, said any plans to develop the contaminated Paducah site or to withdraw water from the water table underneath it must be carefully executed.

He said the construction of a such a large gas-fired power plant — which emits planet-warming greenhouse gases — would have implications for climate change and that his organization would want to be certain that regular ratepayers are not forced to subsidize the power plants and transmission upgrades there.

Gary also said his organization will want to make sure that the Department of Energy does not circumvent permitting processes as a way to get around environmental protection laws.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Kentucky Department for Local Government (DLG) is accepting application materials under the 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The city of Grayson intends to apply for CDBG funding assistance for the construction of the Pathways Autism Center, a facility that will provide vital therapeutic and support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

A public hearing will be held prior to the submission of the required application. The public hearing will take place on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. EST/ 1:00 P.M. CST, at the Grayson Municipal Building, 302 E. Main Street, Grayson, KY 41143. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain citizens' views on community development and housing needs, to review proposed activities, and to solicit public comments on the proposed project and application.

Technical assistance is available to help groups representing low- and moderate-income persons in developing proposals for funding under the CDBG program.

The following information concerning the CDBG program will be available for public inspection at the Grayson Municipal Building during regular business hours:

A. Amount of funds available and the range of activities that may be undertaken.

B. Estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities benefiting persons of low and moderate income.

C. Records regarding the past use of CDBG funds by the City of Grayson, if applicable.

D. A summary of other important program requirements.

Comments on Application

A copy of the CDBG application material will be on file for public review and comment at the Grayson Municipal Building during regular business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. EST/ 7:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. CST) from Monday, August 17th through Monday, August 24, 2026, at 10:00 A.M EST/ 9:00 A.M CST. Comments on the proposed application may be submitted to the attention of Mayor Troy Combs until the close of business on Friday, August 21, 2026.

Non-Discrimination Clause

The city of Grayson does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, or disability. Upon request, the City will provide reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services, to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs, services, and activities.

Any persons requiring special needs assistance or services for non-English-speaking residents should contact Mayor Troy Combs at 606-474-6651 at least five days prior to the meeting. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-648-6057.

ADA Resources

- Department for the Blind: 1-877-KYBLIND
- American Printing House for the Blind: 1-800-233-1839
- Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Interpreter Directory): 1-800-372-2907
- State Relay TDDD Number: 1-800-648-6057

NOTICE

The Carter County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax rate levy of 46.9 cents on real and personal property.

The general fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 47 cents on real and personal property and produced \$5,266,145.79. The proposed general fund tax rate of 46.9 on real and personal property is expected to produce \$6,148,544.15. Of this amount, \$984,397.35 is from new and personal property. The compensating rate for 2027 is 44.9 on real and personal property and is expected to generate \$5,886,346.10.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$882,398 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: cost of collections, \$34,590; building fund, \$74,210; instruction, \$603,408, transportation, \$85,095; maintenance, \$85,095.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017. The general assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

NOTICE

The Carter County Detention Center is accepting bids for a roof replacement. We are seeking quotes to:

1. Clean and prep the existing roof membrane for roof replacement.
2. Remove the existing roof membrane from all roof walls, curbs, and roof penetrations.
3. Install a fully adhered rubber system, or comparable metal gauge standing seam roof system, in accordance with standard specification details.
4. Installation bids should include flashing of all roof penetrations in a watertight manner, fabrication and installation of gravel stop and drip edges at all required locations, and removal of project debris from site.

Bids may be sent to Carter County Detention Center, 13 Cross Bar Road, Grayson, KY 41143, or contact the office by phone at (606)475-1646, ext. 123.

Looking to buy, sell or trade?

Having a yard sale?

Looking to hire or trying to find work?

Post it in the CLASSIFIEDS!

Contact advertise@cartercountytimes.com

"There shouldn't be a justification to get around that and end up potentially dumping a lot more burden on a rural community that can't afford it," Gary said.

Follow Marc Levy at <http://twitter.com/timely-writer>.

US moves to shut a Kentucky organ donation group, citing safety failures

By Lauran Neergaard
AP Medical Writer

The Trump administration said Wednesday it will shut down a Kentucky organ donation group accused of continuing plans for organ retrieval from some patients who unexpectedly showed signs of life.

While those surgeries were canceled, the cases made headlines several years ago, prompting a spike in people around the country revoking their organ donor registrations.

Health Secretary Robert

F. Kennedy Jr. called the nonprofit Network for Hope "a bad apple" and accused it of "persistent safety failures" in announcing the government was starting the process to decertify it.

Network for Hope is one of about 55 organ procurement organizations, or OPOs, that coordinate the recovery of organs from deceased donors and help match them to patients on the nation's transplant list. In a statement, Network for Hope said it "strongly disagrees" with Kennedy's decision and will appeal.

Among the allegations is that in 2021, Network for Hope's predecessor organization pressured a local hospital to proceed with plans to withdraw life support and retrieve organs from a man despite signs that he was waking up from a drug overdose. The man survived and his sister joined Kennedy at a press briefing Wednesday, thanking him.

OPOs cannot declare if someone is dead — only a doctor at the hospital treating the person can do that. Only after that declaration can a donor agency

assume responsibility for the deceased, looking for potential recipients and scheduling surgeons to come in to retrieve the organs. Most donations come from people declared brain-dead. But sometimes doctors say a patient has a nonsurvivable injury and the family decides to withdraw life support — and in certain circumstances, that also can allow for donation.

In its statement, Network for Hope said it complies with all federal organ policies. It said that over a year ago it imple-

mented a "first-of-its-kind" new safeguard allowing anyone — including health professionals or family members — to call a pause in donation planning if there's any concern the patient won't be appropriate.

Kentucky recently passed a law mandating that pause and the federal Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network is working on new rules that also would require all the nation's OPOs to implement it.

More than 100,000 people are on the U.S. transplant list, the vast ma-

jority seeking a kidney, and thousands will die waiting for a new organ. There were more than 49,000 transplants last year, a record despite a small drop in donations from the deceased — the first such dip in a decade.

— *The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.*

Americans rewire their grocery shopping routines while digesting the biggest price jump in 50 years

By Dee-Ann Durbin, Terry Tang, Maggie Scales, Sandy Guatibonza And Hikari Mae Hida
Associated Press and The Lexington Observer, La

Esquina and Honolulu Civil Beat

What's for dinner? Late-ly, at Apral Jack's house, it's whatever is on sale.

Jack, 50, scouts an app for deals at her local supermarket before she buys groceries. When she reaches the store, she looks in the weekly circular for

coupons she might have missed. If shelf prices look too high, she tries to find lower prices someplace else.

"The apples went up

here, the ones I eat, so now I'm not going to get them here," Jack said as she pushed a cart into a Stop & Shop near her home in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Couponing, comparison shopping and cutting back on favorite foods are new habits for her and millions

See GROCERIES on A-8