

New drain installed on Ky. 1428 to reduce water issues

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet recently installed a drain beside Ky. 1428 in Allen. Allen Mayor Ernestine Hall said the ditch has caused water issues for years, such as water overflowing into the road and contributing to recent flood issues. She said water is now properly draining and citizens are happy to see the newly-installed drain.



Floyd Chronicle and Times photo by Devin Kidd

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 pro-

jects 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.

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