

MAC hosts Green Dot Youth Summit



Floyd Chronicle and Times photos by Devin Kidd

The Green Dot Youth Summit took place at the Mountain ARTs Center on April 22. High school students enjoyed vendors targeting teen success, free lunch and refreshments and entertainment. Additionally, speakers discussed topics such as opioid use and mental health awareness.



Building an Aggressive Plan for the Future



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My goal for SOAR is to help redefine our future while using all resources locally. The future for the SOAR region is bright and is now!

– Reed Adkins, President of SOAR

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Recently at SOAR:

- 52 new, good paying jobs were created with an energy company.
- Provided resources to educate and train people for career change, creating job and tax base.

“By providing funding assistance for licensure exam fees, SOAR helped HCTC nursing students eliminate a barrier to employment. Their help allowed our students to accelerate their pathway to meaningful nursing careers that will positively impact our communities for years to come.”

– Jennifer Linden, President Hazard Community & Technical College

- Developed a plan and provided resources to Big Sandy Community and Technical College to develop a Certified Paramedic Program.

“Thanks to SOAR, we trained over 30 people who obtained certification to become paramedics. The curriculum is ongoing and many more opportunities are available.” – Todd Brand, President Big Sandy Community & Technical College

PSC issues final order in East Kentucky Power Cooperative rate case

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The Kentucky Public Service Commission announced in a statement April 23 it has issued a final order in East Kentucky Power Cooperative rate case.

Big Sandy RECC, which serves Floyd and Johnson counties, is an owner-member of EKPC.

The PSC, the statement said, accepted a Joint Settlement Agreement with modifications.

In their application, EKPC asked for a 7.49 percent (\$79.8 million) revenue increase.

Additionally, all 16 rural electric cooperative utilities that are Owner-Member cooperatives of EKPC, including Big Sandy RECC, filed applications for a pass-through increase in rates to correspond with the increase in EKPC's requested increase.

On Nov. 25, the statement said, EKPC filed a Joint Settlement Agreement between EKPC, the Attorney General and Nucor, which were intervenors in the matter.

The Joint Settlement proposed an increase to base rate revenues of \$63.8 million or 5.99 percent. The Joint Settlement also proposed changes to their existing earnings mechanism and eliminating the Generation Maintenance Tracker, shifting to a symmetrical earnings mechanism.

The SEM, the statement said, would allow EKPC to address margins of revenue, automatically issuing a refund to members if it

earned over a 1.6 TIER in a given year and automatically collecting more if EKPC earned under a 1.4 TIER. The parties, the statement said, agreed that EKPC should collect or return any margins to its Owner-Members for contemporaneous collection or pass-through to Retail Members in the form of a bill charge or credit.

In the order, the statement said, the PSC modified the JSA, authorizing a revenue increase of nearly \$63.7 million, or 5.98 percent. The order stated that the SEM is denied for several reasons, including EKPC's recent pattern of earnings that shows EKPC is more likely to collect from its customers than to issue a refund and because the PSC fears the SEM could allow large bill increases automatically without customer notices or PSC oversight over whether the increases are fair, just and reasonable until after the fact, the statement said.

The statement said the PSC also ordered that the existing EM is eliminated, and a modified Generation Maintenance Tracker is approved.

Other modifications to the Joint Settlement Agreement were minor, the statement said. The orders relating to each of the 16 cooperative pass through rate increases will be issued over the next few days.

All new rates will be effective May 1.

The order, a video of the hearing and other records in the case are available on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov. The case number is 2025-00208.