

East Kentucky Power Cooperative's proposed coal-burning Smith plant is

# A THREAT TO KENTUCKY'S STREAMS AND TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER



## LEND YOUR VOICE TO CLEAN WATER...

**East Kentucky Power Co-op (EKPC) is proposing to build a new coal-burning power plant near the Kentucky River in Clark County called the Smith plant. KFTC members are concerned that the Smith plant would have many negative health and environmental impacts and that EKPC is not considering clean energy alternatives.**

To build the plant, EKPC must apply for and receive a water permit from the Army Corp of Engineers. The public has 60-days to comment on the proposed permit. KFTC members and our allied groups across the state are using this opportunity to speak out against the proposed plant and call for a better, cleaner way forward.

Please help lend your voice to clean water and public health by attending a public hearing on the permit or submitting written comments. We are trying to demonstrate widespread opposition to

the plant by generating hundreds of comments from people all across the state. On the back of this flyer are talking points that you can use when submitting your comments.

Also, please join us on June 8th at 7 p.m. at the Clark County Extension Office (1400 Fortune Drive, Winchester). The more people speaking out for clean water and a better way, the louder our voice!

For more information, contact Sara at Kentuckians For The Commonwealth at [sara@kftc.org](mailto:sara@kftc.org) or 606-276-9933.



**Come to the public hearing!**  
Join us on June 8th at 7 p.m. at the Clark County Extension Office in Winchester (1400 Fortune Drive) to speak out for clean water and a better way!

# CLEAN WATER TALKING POINTS:

## Harmful impacts of power plant pollution on Kentucky's water and land.

- ◆ Over the next thirty-three years, the coal plant would generate 520,000 tons of ash a year. That's 1 ton of ash for every co-op customer for 33 years! This ash would be left at the plant.
- ◆ Coal ash contains a wide variety of toxic contaminants, including lead, mercury, cadmium, zinc, selenium, and arsenic. Many of these compounds are neurotoxins; others are carcinogenic.
- ◆ Improperly stored coal ash has contaminated drinking water in at least eight states, including Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, and has been linked to harm to ecological and human health. According to an EPA report, the cancer risk from exposure to arsenic near coal landfills is as much as fifty times higher than the agency accepts.
- ◆ During the first twelve years of operation, EKPC does not intend to apply for landfill permits, but will instead use coal ash as "structural fill", dumping it into wetlands and streams near the Kentucky River. It has not committed to designing these fill areas according to the protective standards normally applied to landfills. EKPC has also not submitted plans for the landfills it intends to build later on in the plant's life.
- ◆ The coal plant would impact more than 75,000 feet (or over 14 miles) of streams, burying a bit under half of these streams under coal ash. Roughly five acres of wetlands, which filter sediment and pollutants, will also be impacted. As a result, in addition to adding toxins to the watershed, EKPC's plans impair the ecosystem's ability to recover from the effects of this pollution.
- ◆ EKPC's plans for storing the huge volumes of coal-ash waste from the Smith plant call for simply storing it on the ground only a mile from the Kentucky River and upstream from the water supply intakes for both the city of Lexington and Winchester.
- ◆ EKPC does not need a new coal-burning power plant. EKPC's demand for electricity has actually dropped since EKPC first planned this plant. To the extent EKPC needs any additional electricity, burning coal to generate the electricity is worst option.

Smith would produce enough coal ash to fill 5,000 olympic size swimming pools

Smith would bury or impact over 14 miles of streams and five acres of wetlands.

## There is a better way:

The Clean Water Act provides that regulators should consider alternatives before granting pollution permits. Any written comments should mention that EKPC has not adequately considered less-polluting alternatives, and that there is a better way than a risky, ash-producing coal plant.

Studies have demonstrated that a program of energy efficiency measures, weatherization, and clean, renewable energy from sun, wind and especially low-impact hydroelectric can offset the energy the plant would produce. Not only are these alternatives clean and sufficient to meet EKPC's need, they will also cost the ratepayers less than this costly power plant and the coal it takes to run it. And...the alternative would create nearly 9,000 thousand good Kentucky jobs which would be spread throughout all 87 counties of EKPC's service area.