



An Energy Conversation : Smith Unit #1

People are asking many questions about energy. Here are simple answers about our plans for a new generating unit.

Q: What is Smith #1?

A: Smith #1 is a proposed new clean coal electric-generating unit that our not-for-profit power supplier, East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC), plans to build at J.K. Smith Station in Clark County. It's 278 megawatts. That's enough power for about 150,000 Kentucky homes.

Q: Is it really needed?

A: Yes. We need the power right now. That's not even taking into account rising future demand.

Q: Will it benefit people in Kentucky?

A: It will create hundreds of good-paying jobs, including up to 700 construction jobs over three years and dozens of permanent jobs.

Q: What about the environment?

A: It'll be one of the cleanest coal units in America using new technology to lower emissions. It can also use Kentucky-grown switchgrass as a supplemental fuel.

Q: What happens if you don't build it?

A: If EKPC doesn't increase its power capacity, it will have to buy more electricity from the grid. That will cost more and we will have to pass the cost on to our members.

Q: Why don't you use solar or wind power?

A: In Kentucky, generating power with wind costs about twice as much as coal power and solar costs up to four times as much. Wind and solar power aren't always available. If there's no sun shining or wind blowing, there's no power. EKPC has studied the options extensively and concluded that Smith #1 is the most affordable, reliable option. State regulators have agreed that the unit is needed.

Q: Do you provide any green power?

A: Yes. Our system generates more green power than any utility in Kentucky. We generate clean, renewable power from methane at landfill sites.

