CASE STUDY OF EKPC J.K. SMITH PROPOSED PLANT

Robert Ukeiley
rukeiley@igc.org
859-986-5402
East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) is one of two G&T cooperatives in Kentucky.

G&T coops are regulated by the Public Service Commission in KY.

EKPC committed to coal: 97.4% of its electricity comes from coal fired units.

Broad coalition opposed EKPC’s plans to build additional coal plant called J.K. Smith (A priest, a doctor and Wendell Berry walk into a …)
Coalition engaged in a multi-prong attack

- Environmental (multi-media)
- Governance
- Financial
REPORTS

- Analysis for Financing of the Project by Tom Sanzillo
  - Started with a data request to EKPC
  - Talked about what EKPC’s rating would be by comparing EKPC to other G&T coops

PSC Management Audit

- Found EKPC had very little internal planning process

- Found potential conflict for EKPC Board chair who also had a role with EKPC lender
REPORT ON ALTERNATIVES TO J.K. SMITH

- Report included cost and job impacts of alternatives

AN ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE EAST KENTUCKY POWER COOPERATIVE REGION

William Tharp, Ph.D.
Lori Quillen
Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies
July 2009
MULTIPLE PSC PROCEEDINGS

- Integrated Resource Plan
- Debt authorization
- Complaint to revoke Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience
The Berea-based Kentucky Environmental Foundation on Tuesday petitioned the (USDA) inspector general to review the agency’s September 2009 decision to allow the East Kentucky Power Cooperative to take on up to $900 million in additional debt."
MEDIA

- Consistent message
- Good messanger
- Worked with media consultant
HAPPY ENDING

- EKPC cancels plant
  - Says it does not need it but if it did, natural gas would be cheaper

- Started renewables and energy efficiency collaborative