Cooper Station co-firing with coal and natural gas

Cooper Station in Burnside, Ky., is a 341-megawatt coal-fueled power plant that provides important voltage support for the Southern Kentucky grid.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Rule, finalized in 2024, requires coal-fueled electric-generating units in the U.S. to shut down by 2032 unless they are converted to use natural gas as fuel.

EKPC plans to convert the boiler on Cooper Station's largest generating unit so it can use both coal and natural gas as fuel, allowing it to continue operating for years to come.

Schedule: Operational by December 2029
Cost: $73.8 million

- EKPC plans to convert the boilers on Cooper Unit #2 to allow the unit to use either coal or natural gas as fuel. Any combination of fuel could be fired from 0% to 100% coal or natural gas.
- This project will safeguard 225 megawatts of reliable, dispatchable baseload power plant capacity.
- Cooper Station has a full-time workforce of 58 full-time employees, along with more than $378,000 in local 2023 tax impact.
- EKPC is contracting with a third party to construct a natural gas pipeline to Cooper Station in order to ensure continued reliable operation.
- The alternative option for keeping Cooper Station operating is to install carbon capture technology, which is extremely expensive and unproven. Furthermore, Kentucky does not have acceptable geology for safely storing captured carbon dioxide underground, so a pipeline would be necessary.

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