Energy Planning and Inventory Commission

Board Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2026
3:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.
KY Capital Annex
702 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Presiding: Vice Chair Jeffrey Brock (Chair absent, travel delay)

1. Call to Order and Quorum

- Members were welcomed. EPIC has no permanent address yet, and Representative Miles was thanked for hosting in the chamber.
- Members Present:
  - KY Coal Producers (Vice Chair): Jeffrey Brock
  - Retired East KY Power Coop: Tony Campbell
  - Transportation of Coal Industry: Todd Case
  - KY Oil and Gas: Wesley Cate
  - KY Investor Owned Utility: John Crockett
  - Secretary, Energy and Environment Cabinet: John Lyons
  - KY Generation & Transmission Cooperatives: Talina Mathews
  - House of Representatives: Suzanne Miles
  - Mining, Milling, Conversion: Keith Murt
  - Secretary, Cabinet for Economic Development: Jeff Noel
  - Residential Electricity Consumers: Kevin Nolan
  - Producers of Renewable Electricity: Matt Partymiller
  - Purchasing of Fossil Fuels: Caryl Pfeiffer
  - Transportation Industry: Matt Ricketts
  - Duky Energy Natural Gas: Brian Weisker
- A quorum was declared.

2. Minutes

Motion and second, approved by voice vote with no opposition.

3. New Members

- **Matt Ricketts:** President and CEO of Crounse Corporation. The company moves more than 30 million tons of commodities, including Kentucky coal.
- **Tony Campbell:** Former CEO of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, whose member co-ops serve about 1.2 million customers.

4. SERC Presentation (Tim Ponseti and Jon Tauber)

- **Role:** SERC is one of six regional entities under NERC and the largest of the six. It covers 16 states, is headquartered in Charlotte and owns no assets. It is both a standards regulator and a promoter of best practices, and it does not advocate for particular policies or fuels.
- **Footprint:**
    - It has more than 400 registered entities.
    - It contains 6 of North America's 16 reliability coordinators.
    - It carries about 1,400 TWh of energy.
    - About 45% of existing and planned data centers are in its area.
- **Top risks (draft 2026–28 list):**
    - Extreme weather moves to #1.
    - Large non-traditional load (data centers) moves from #6 to #2.
    - Resource uncertainty is #3, and supply chain is #4.
    - Other risks include workforce shortages, cyber threats accelerated by AI, insider threats and physical attacks.
- **Margins:** MISO North and PJM show elevated or high risk, and the Carolinas show elevated risk. TVA is lower. Kentucky sits at the seams of several of these areas.
- **Baseball analogy:** Megawatts are the pitchers, but the grid also needs essential reliability services such as voltage support, frequency response, ramping and black start. Local generation matters because power can only travel about 100–150 miles.
- **Data center load:** About 4,000 MW dropped off in Northern Virginia on a fault. Models for new assets are often generic, so operators may be running "unanalyzed."
- **Takeaways:** Kentucky needs transmission, technology and time. It should keep diversified options to avoid regret, and do due diligence and use protective terms ("prenup") with data centers.

Discussion

- **Data center funding (Sec. Noel):** Some developers can fund their own supply (for example the Memphis Colossus project), but not all projects will be built.
- **Large load registration:** FERC has directed SERC/NERC to develop registration criteria for large loads by Dec 31. Reliability standards would follow.
- **Gas pipelines:** A member said pipelines should be called out more strongly as a risk. SERC said they currently fall under fuel diversity.
- **Commission structure:** SERC said the three committees are the right structure. It advised doing the homework, weighing economics and getting firm commitments.
- **IRP scenarios:** A member hoped utilities could explore "what if" scenarios beyond the conservative IRPs.

5. Executive Director Report (Eric)

- **Staffing:** More than 60 applications came in.
    - Mary Beth Purvis joined in August as Director of Regulatory and Economic Analysis. She is a former PSC staffer with Oklahoma large-load experience and speaks at NARUC the next day.

    - Tom Castle, a professional engineer, will lead energy systems modeling and starts October 29.
    - Jack Wenzel will lead strategic initiatives. He comes from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.
    - Laura (admin operations) and Hayden (UK intern) were also recognized.
- **UK MOU:** Terms on funds, personnel, contracts and office space are still open. UK proposed a meeting on September 29, and Eric will update members afterward.

6. Senate Bill 100 (Mike Kalenak, General Counsel)

- **Independence:** EPIC is a separate entity that governs itself, still attached to UK only as much as EPIC requires. The CAER director was removed from the Executive Committee.
- **Procurement:** The Executive Director stands in for the Finance Cabinet Secretary, and EPIC runs its own procurement under KRS 45A.
- **Hiring:** EPIC alone classifies positions and sets pay (KRS 18A suspended for this).
- **Funds:** Money is under EPIC's control in separate Treasury accounts and is subject to state audit.
- **$15M dispute:**
    - The 2026 budget "allocated" $15M of the roughly $40M endowment to EPIC.
    - EPIC reads that as a transfer. UK reads it as funds placed in a separate account under UK's umbrella.
    - A draft MOU was sent June 5, and EPIC is still waiting on UK's position.

7. House Joint Resolution 77 (Mary Beth Purvis)

The report is due to the LRC on **December 1, 2026**. It is being prepared with UK's Center for Business and Economic Research.

Directive	Approach
1. Coal generation viability	Profile the eastern KY fleet, supply chain, unit economics and reliability role, using EIA, FERC and PSC data.
2. Alternative coal uses	Literature review, sorted into real today, pilot scale and early stage.
3. Why costs are high	County-level energy burden, PSC-filed rates, cost-of-service studies and riders.
4. Cost reduction options	A "toolbox" of options from other states and rate designs, with no recommendation.
5. Coal and reliability	Coal's share of generation and its capacity contribution.

Q&A

- **Definition of Eastern KY:** Based on the ARC footprint, covering Kentucky Power and several co-ops.
- **PSC case:** EPIC did not intervene and is considering its role.

- **Housing stock:** Dr. Clark will use Census data. Sample sizes may limit county detail, and data on insulation is limited.
- **Weatherization:** A member suggested tracking weatherization funding over time.

8. Kentucky Energy Adequacy Plan (KEAP)

Purpose: Build one statewide set of facts, since no one currently adds up utility and RTO plans for Kentucky. EPIC's recommendations have no force of law, and the process is meant to be updated annually.

Committee	Co-chairs	Support
Demand	Jeff Noel and John Crockett	Dr. Michael Clark
Supply	Jeff Brock and Wes Cate	Dr. Larry Holloway
Transmission	Talina Matthews and Brian Weisker	Tom Castle

- **Demand (Clark):** Four phases: assess utility forecasting, collect data, decide whether utility forecasts can simply be aggregated, then build a 15-year statewide forecast.
- **Supply (Holloway):** Uses the open-source ReEDS model with utility IRP assumptions, hourly detail and weather stress tests. It supplements utility planning and does not replace it.
- **Transmission:**
  - It is reviewing the seams among PJM, MISO, TVA and LG&E/KU.
  - It is tracking PJM's proposal at FERC (ER26-3515), which curtails new large loads first in shortages and creates a registry for loads over 50 MW.
  - It reviewed FERC's co-location orders.
  - Next: a statewide view of interconnection queues, and mapping of congested and best-placed points.
- **Timeline:**
  - Through the end of 2026 (possibly early 2027): data collection and assumptions.
  - Q1–Q2 2027: demand scenarios.
  - Q3 2027: drafting and committee review.
  - Q4 2027: full draft to the Commission with a comment window, then publication.

Discussion

- **Data confidentiality:** Utility data will be aggregated. The supply work uses public IRP and federal data.
- **Speculative large loads:** A member said many announced projects won't materialize. Three recent large prospects rejected Kentucky's best sites, and one site would cost about $300M in environmental work. The committee will set standards for counting large loads (Monte Carlo, contracts or a percentage).
- **Supply and speed:** Members said utilities need enough supply because the power market has dried up, and that speed wins projects. EPIC's role is to assess statewide risk without putting a thumb on the scale, unlike the PSC's case-by-case review.

9. New Business

- **Resolution:** A resolution recognizing Esther Glover, Ed Holmes and Dr. Rodney Andrews (former Executive Committee members) was moved, seconded and adopted by voice vote. Staff will prepare documentation for them.
- **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjorned.

Action Items

Action	Owner	Timing
Meet UK on MOU and $15M, then update members	Eric / Mike Kalenak/Jeff Brock	Sept 29
Submit HJR 77 report to LRC	Mary Beth / CBER	Dec 1, 2026
Prepare resolution documentation for Glover, Holmes and Andrews	Staff	Not set
Bring a concrete KEAP schedule to the Commission	Eric	Next meeting
Set standards for counting large loads in forecasts	Demand committee	Ongoing
Meet TVA chair and president	Eric	This week
Track FERC/SERC large-load registration criteria (external)	SERC / NERC	Dec 31

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lee Sidwell, Administrative Assistant
Kentucky Energy Planning and Inventory Commission

Pending Commission approval