

PPL and subsidiaries LG&E and KU expand collaboration with U.S. Department of Energy initiative to conduct nuclear feasibility study

Research, funded by a DOE grant, will build on initial study to further assess feasibility for new nuclear at company sites should technology become commercially viable

LOUISVILLE, Ky., June 26, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- As part of an ongoing effort to evaluate all options for future replacement of aging generation, and to better support energy-intensive customers with zero-carbon objectives, PPL Corporation subsidiaries Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company will build on an earlier assessment of nuclear feasibility at the site of an existing Kentucky coal-fired power plant by exploring additional locations and partnerships that could support nuclear energy in the commonwealth.

"We understand that achieving our goal of net-zero carbon emissions will be challenging, and we continue to pursue an all-of-the-above technology strategy to replace aging generation with a cleaner, more diverse energy mix capable of safely, reliably and affordably meeting our customers' future energy needs and supporting continued economic growth," said Vincent Sorgi, president and chief executive officer of PPL.

As with earlier feasibility assessments at LG&E and KU's Ghent Generation Station in Ghent, Ky., PPL's Research and Development team plans to partner with Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN), a U.S. Department of Energy initiative, and nuclear design engineering company X-Energy in the next phase of assessments.

"Nuclear energy is a carbon-free solution that has the potential to meet our customers' needs and support manufacturing and data center growth, particularly if technology such as nuclear small modular reactors (SMRs) become more cost-competitive," said Sorgi. "These in-depth studies are important to determining whether nuclear energy at our locations may be a viable solution moving forward."

PPL and GAIN's prior study at the Ghent facility determined that the site is suitable for a nuclear SMR plant, but would have potential size constraints for a larger traditional nuclear reactor.

Phase two of the study will explore alternative locations and industrial partnerships that could enable energy-intensive customers, including manufacturers and data centers, to achieve their zero-carbon objectives while maintaining reliability and affordability.

About PPL

PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL), headquartered in Allentown, Pennsylvania, is a leading U.S. energy company focused on providing electricity and natural gas safely, reliably and affordably to more than 3.5 million customers in the U.S. PPL's high-performing, award-winning utilities are addressing energy challenges head-on by building smarter, more resilient and more dynamic power grids and advancing sustainable energy solutions. For more information, visit www.pplweb.com.

About Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear

The Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) is a U.S. Department of Energy initiative that provides the nuclear community with access to the technical, regulatory, and financial support necessary to move innovative nuclear energy technologies toward commercialization. GAIN's mission is to support the development and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies.

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