

# Liberty seeks PSC approval for new generator at State Line Power Station

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[https://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local\\_news/liberty-seeks-psc-approval-for-new-generator-at-state-line-power-station/article\\_48e91f2e-46f4-43e0-a3cf-4e26e6c1c64a.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/liberty-seeks-psc-approval-for-new-generator-at-state-line-power-station/article_48e91f2e-46f4-43e0-a3cf-4e26e6c1c64a.html)

The Missouri Public Service Commission has set a Nov. 12 intervention deadline for the public and other entities interested in an application by Liberty to add a new generator to the State Line Power Station on the west side of Joplin.

The PSC said Liberty applied last Friday for what it called a certificate of convenience and necessity to install a 250-megawatt combustion turbine generator at the State Line plant.

That facility currently generates just under 700 megawatts of power through a gas turbine generator and a combined-cycle generator. The plant was built in 1995.

The utility said in its Oct. 24 application for the new generator that it expects construction to begin in late 2028 or early 2029 and the generator to be available for service in the second quarter of 2030.

Aaron Doll, senior director of energy strategy for Liberty Central Region, said years of planning influenced by changing capacity requirements in the

Southwest Power Pool, the electric grid for states such as Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas went into preparing the proposal.

“I think this particular generator is very specific to our integrated resource plan,” Doll said. “That plan is a very robust plan. We evaluated it on what we call a scorecard approach. And so, when we evaluate all technologies, the No. 1 criteria we have is affordability, and we do that through a variety of calculations, long-term and short-term net present value revenue requirements, etc., and we assess it for reliability scores, resiliency scores. We take that score card approach that this generator performed better, when it came to both affordability and reliability, than any other potential generation option out there.”

Doll said cost for the new generator is not clear yet because the company hasn't gone through the bid process or picked a supplier to provide and build the generator.

Costs will eventually be passed on to the consumer, he said, but that won't happen until the generator is running, and Liberty will have to be in its regular rate change cycle with the PSC.

That means consumers won't see the cost until after 2030.

Doll said the process of applying to the PSC for the certificate of convenience and necessity typically takes about nine months, and Liberty filed for the generator less than a week ago, so the process is still in its early stages.

Liberty is currently under scrutiny by the PSC for failures in its customer service.

It also has a rate case that's pending that has been delayed because the initial application said the company was seeking a 19.5% hike in rates.

The Missouri Office of Public Counsel, which represents ratepayers before the PSC, said it discovered that Liberty's numbers were flawed and the utility had to file new papers changing its rate hike request to almost 33%.

Both of those cases are still pending.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360, or by using the commission's Electronic Filing and Information System at [psc.mo.gov](http://psc.mo.gov).

Individual residents wishing to comment may contact either the Office of the Public Counsel, Governor Office Building, 200 Madison St., Suite 650, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, MO 65102-2230, telephone 866-922-2959, or email [mopco@opc.mo.gov](mailto:mopco@opc.mo.gov) or the Public Service Commission Staff, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, MO 65102, telephone 800-392-4211, or email [pscinfo@psc.mo.gov](mailto:pscinfo@psc.mo.gov).