

KU sells historic Lock 7 power plant

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HARRODSBURG - A historic electricity generating plant has been saved from the wrecking ball and will be renovated and preserved as a "green" resource for electricity.

Kentucky Utilities announced Tuesday the sale of its Lock 7 hydroelectric generating facility to Lock 7 Hydro Partners. It completes the first part of an effort that began in March 2004 to [save](#) the plant that was built in 1928.

Lock 7 Hydro Partners is a 50-50 partnership of Shaker Landing Hydro Associates and Salt River Electric of Bardstown. The plant, which is less than a mile downstream from Shaker Landing near High Bridge, has not been used since 1999, when it fell into disrepair.

It likely will not be used fully for about eight years as the owners raise money from the sale of electricity for a complete [renovation](#). David Brown Kinloch said today that the plant has three turbines that generate electricity through the use of water in the Kentucky River, a renewable and non-polluting resource.

Use depends on water level

The new owners estimate the cost of restoration will be about \$2.75 million. The eight-year plan could be shortened if [funds](#) become available from sources other than the sale of electricity.

"Provisions in the federal energy bill may provide us with some lower cost financing, which might enable us to renovate it quicker than eight years," he said.

The plant has never run all day every day, because the use of the plant depends on the level of the water in the river.

Brown Kinloch says the plant's output will reduce sulfur dioxide by 66 tons, nitric oxide by 23 tons and carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas, by 10,000 tons a year over the pollution from a coal-fired plant for the same amount of electricity.

New name honors Shaker founder

The plant is being renamed the Mother Ann Lee Hydroelectric Station, honoring the founder of the Shakers. Brown Kinloch's company, Soft Energy Associates of Louisville, formed Shaker Landing Hydro Associates and it is that company that is in partnership with Salt River Electric.

He and his partners hope to have one of the three turbines in the plant up and running in about two months. One turbine will produce electricity for "400 typical homes." All three turbines would power about 1,000 homes.

The partnership has no way to store power generated by the plant, and the plant can only run as long as there is enough water in the river to turn the turbines. When the river falls below the level that can be used by the new company, Salt River will have to purchase power from East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Brown Kinloch said.

Electricity customers may request "green power." Like other products produced with fewer chemicals or less pollution, green power will be more expensive.

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