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August 11, 2025

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c/o Ectory Lawless, Dockets & Records Manager  
Tennessee Public Utility Commission  
502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243

Electronically Filed in TPVC Docket  
Room on August 11, 2025 at 9:23 a.m.

RE: KgPCo TRP & MS Rider (Docket No. 25-00022)

Dear Chairman Jones:

On behalf of Kingsport Power Company d/b/a AEP Appalachian Power, we transmit herewith for filing Kingsport Power Company's Affidavit of Publication verifying that the Notice to Public was published in the Kingsport Times-News on July 31, 2025.

The original and four (4) copies are being sent via Federal Express. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions.

Very truly yours,

HUNTER, SMITH & DAVIS, LLP

Joseph B. Harvey

cc: Shilina B. Brown, Esq.  
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## **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

(Order #25075AA0)

### **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

CITY/COUNTY OF Henrico, to-wit:

I, Julia Wigginton, Tearsheet Coordinator, hereby certify that a Public Notice for Appalachian Power Company (Kingsport Power Co. Docket No. 25-00022 TRP and MS) was published in the following newspaper on the date listed in the year 2025.

Kingsport Times News 07/31/25

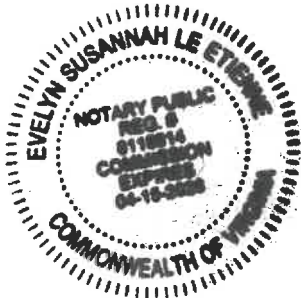
Julia Wigginton

Signature

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 31st day of July 2025.

My commission expires: 04/15/28

Evelyn Etienne  
[Evelyn Etienne - Notary Public]



# USDA to shutter program for local farmers, food distributors

**By BEN SMITH**  
bensmith@sixriversmedia.com

NASHVILLE — The United States Department of Agriculture announced earlier this month that it will terminate a national program established to help small to mid-level farmers and food businesses.

The Regional Food Business Centers Program was established in 2023 by the USDA to help strengthen food supply chains weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the program are 12 divisions that encompass the entirety of the United States and its territories.

USDA officials said all 12 divisions would be terminated, including the local arm of the program, the Appalachia Regional Food Business Center (ARFBC).

The ARFBC has until September 15 before it is shuttered indefinitely.

In its year-and-a-half of operation, the ARFBC has worked with more than 2,800 farms in the Appalachian region, providing grants, training, advice, mental health services and more.

Prior to receiving its notice of termination, the ARFBC was set to inject more than \$16 million into Appalachia this year through grants.

Leadership with the organization is negotiating to allow the ARFBC to distribute a final round of grants from its Business Builder Sub-award program to four finalists.

ARFBC Director Paul Freedman is optimistic the last round of grants will make it through. But even if it does, it will be the last one for the fore-

seeable future.

USDA leadership categorized the move as an elimination of unsustainable funding, part of a broader goal by the Trump Administration to eliminate “waste, fraud and abuse” from government programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

“The Biden Administration created multiple, massive programs without any long-term way to finance them. This is not sustainable for farmers who rely on these programs, and it flies in the face of Congressional intent,” said Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins.

However, Freedman says the elimination of this program will lead to some gaps in the food

supply chain. While he hopes some private organizations will be able to pick up the slack, he said they likely won’t be able to cover everything.

Apart from issuing grants, the ARFBC provided information to help local farmers sustain and grow their farms. That includes reaching out to experts to advise farmers on marketing tactics, crop strategies, machinery purchases, and food science.

Freedman used an example of an apple farm. The variety of apples popular with consumers change often — one season it may be Gala, the next, Fuji. Orchards aren’t able to keep up with the rapidly shifting demand for different varieties, and so orchard owners can often be caught with a surplus of product and a shortage

of buyers.

“So we noticed that the need to help farmers think more strategically and be more nimble as a business was really critical,” said Freedman. “And often, that was a missing piece in the assistance that farmers got through traditional channels.”

In addition, the ARFBC provided other services, such as mental health counseling for farmers, who are 3.5 times more likely to commit suicide than the rest of the population.

What made this program unique from other USDA programs, Freedman said, is that it encompassed more than just farms. It also helped small to mid-sized food distributors to restaurants, warehouses and food banks.

“We went from some of

the most rural corners of east and northeast Tennessee ... and covered some of the urban areas,” said Freedman. “So we weren’t restricted to size or location. It really was trying to help the food businesses wherever they were.”

To offer some of these services, the ARFBC partnered with 15 groups across Appalachia. Three nearby providers include: Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Council, located in Johnson City; Appalachian Sustainable Development, which operates in Northeast Tennessee; and Agrarian Trust, located just across the North Carolina border.

“We’re just disappointed in the determination, and our goal is to still find a way forward,” said Freedman.

## Sullivan County Health raises human trafficking awareness

**By JOY MAZUR**  
jmazur@sixriversmedia.com

The glittery red sand that will temporarily highlight the sidewalk cracks at the Sullivan County Regional Health Department is more than just a festive decoration.

The health department was one of more than 70 organizations statewide that participated in the Red Sand Project this week. The interactive art installation, created in 2014 by artist and activist Molly Gochman, invites participants to question, connect and take action against human trafficking.

In advancing its commitment to address human trafficking, the Tennessee Department of Health partners with the project to raise awareness. This year, the Sullivan County department held events at the Interstate 81 Welcome Center and its offices in Kingsport and Blountville. Participants were given dixie cups of nontoxic, environmentally-friendly sand to pour into the ground.

“It’s just a representation of all of the people that have fallen through society’s cracks,” said Public Health Educator Laura Street.

About 1,170 human trafficking tips were reported in the state in 2024, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. While the numbers are slightly down from 2023, the bureau highlighted that rates still remain high compared to five years ago. Upper East



CONTRIBUTED

**A child pours red sand into sidewalk cracks at the welcome center off Interstate 81. The interactive art installation represents victims of human trafficking that have fallen through society’s cracks.**

**National Human Trafficking Hotline**

If you are in need of immediate assistance, call 1-888-373-7888 or use the live chat at [humantraffickinghotline.org](https://humantraffickinghotline.org).

Tennessee made up a little over a quarter of these tips.

“Sullivan County isn’t an area that you would think of [as] high trafficking, but it does happen here,” Street said.

And while most people think of it as a sex-related industry, she added that the crime can take many forms.

“It’s not just sex,” Street said. “It’s work, mining ... labor trafficking. So it’s just bringing awareness to all different types.”

The industry is highly profitable, generating

an estimated \$150 billion worldwide every year. And contrary to popular belief, trafficking doesn’t happen in an instant — often, victims have been groomed and may not even recognize the extent of their situation.

Street said the ultimate goal of the awareness campaign is to end the issue.

“This is something that was created by humans,” she said, repeating sentiments from Gochman. “Hopefully we can end it. And I think it starts with us.”

## Volunteer High School to host “Mean Girls: High School Version” musical

**From staff reports**

CHURCH HILL — Surgoinsville Middle School’s theater program is producing its fourth annual musical theater summer camp at Volunteer High School.

“Mean Girls: High School Version” by Tina Fey will be performed by rising sophomores through graduating seniors Aug. 1-3.

From across

Northeast Tennessee, 80 students participated in the summer camps and enough for “Mean Girls: High School Version” to have two casts: Cast Fetch and Cast Fearless.

“Audiences will follow Cady Heron on an epic musical adventure as she navigates the mean hallways of Northshore High and the Plastics, as a new student who spent most of her life home schooling in Africa,” a

news release states.

A class of 2025 graduate of VHS, Belle Fritts, will play Regina George. Belle has participated in 30 musicals, including other leading roles.

Cady Heron will be played by Kaileigh Dye, who also has performed at VHS. This will be her first leading role.

To reserve tickets, go to <https://cur8.com/projects/Surgoinsville>.

## Vanessa Bennett selected for U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation program

**From staff reports**

KINGSPORT — Vanessa Bennett from the Kingsport Chamber was recently announced to be a part of a national business leadership program by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

The Business Leads Fellowship Program, according to the release, “trains and equips leaders from state and local chambers of commerce, economic development agencies and trade associations.”

“I’m honored to be selected for the Business Leads Fellowship and look forward to learning alongside peers from across the country who are passionate about building strong education and workforce pipelines,”



Bennett

Vanessa Bennett said in the release. “At the Kingsport Chamber, we know that the future of our communities depends on how we invest in talent today—and I’m excited to bring back innovative ideas and collaborative strategies to support that mission right here in Kingsport.”

Bennett was selected along with 34 other state and local chamber executives, economic development professionals and associations leaders to participate in the twelfth cohort for the program.

According to the release, it is a six-month program including both in-person and virtual meetings.

For more information on the Business Leads Fellowship Program, visit the program’s website at <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/solutions/early-child-hood-and-k-12-education/business-leads>.

## Hospital says it never agreed to deactivate inmate’s heart device before execution

**By JONATHAN MATTISE**  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE— A Tennessee hospital says it never agreed to a request by state officials who face a court order to turn off a death row inmate’s heart-regulating implant before his

execution next week.

After a Nashville judge ordered the deactivation of Byron Black’s device, a Tennessee Department of Correction official said in a court declaration that Nashville General Hospital said they could disable it the

day before his Aug. 5 execution at 10 a.m., but wouldn’t come to the prison on execution day, as the judge had ordered. The judge ultimately allowed some leniency, saying Black could be moved to the hospital the morning of the execution.

KINGSPORT POWER COMPANY NOTICE TO PUBLIC			
Kingsport Power Company, d/b/a AEP Appalachian Power (“Kingsport”), hereby gives notice that on March 28, 2025 it filed a Petition with the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“TPUC”) in Docket No. 25-00022, proposing to change its rates to recover costs associated with its Targeted Reliability Plan (“TRP”) and Major Storm (“MS”) expenses incurred during the period January 2024 – December 2024, pursuant to the Orders in Docket Nos. 17-00032 and 21-00107. The rates proposed by Kingsport are subject to approval by the TPUC. Kingsport’s current tariffs, and its filing regarding changes to its TRP & MS charges, are on file with the TPUC at 502 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee, and are available for public inspection.			
In its March 28, 2025, Petition filing with the TPUC, Kingsport provided proposed new TRP & MS charges, calculated in accordance with the provisions of Docket Nos. 17-00032 and 21-00107, to reflect changes in its costs. The date for hearing on this Petition is August 18, 2025. The charges, to be applied to customer bills as an energy rate, demand rate, or service charge, beginning 30 days from the date of this notice, are as follows:			
Tariff	Energy Rate (¢) / kWh	Demand Rate (\$)/ KW or *KVA	Service Charge (\$)/Customer
<u>Residential</u>			\$6.84
<u>Residential Employee</u>			\$6.84
<u>Residential Smart Time-of-Use</u>			\$6.84
<u>Residential Time-of-Day</u>			\$6.84
<u>Small General Service (SGS)</u>			\$12.20
<u>Medium General Service (MGS) Secondary</u>		\$4.33	
<u>General Service Time-of-Day (GS-TOD)</u>	0.63212		
<u>Medium General Service (MGS) Primary</u>		\$4.24	
<u>Large General Service (LGS) Secondary*</u>		\$4.50	
<u>Large General Service (LGS) Primary*</u>		\$3.97	
<u>LGS Subtransmission/Transmission*</u>		\$3.89	
<u>Industrial Power (IP) Secondary</u>		\$2.27	
<u>Industrial Power (IP) Primary</u>		\$2.21	
<u>Industrial Power (IP) Subtransmission/Transmission</u>		\$1.28	
<u>Church Service</u>	1.70817		
<u>Public Schools (PS)</u>	0.40482		
<u>Electric Heating General (EHG)**</u>		\$2.99	
<u>Outdoor Lighting (OL)- (per Lamp)</u>			\$4.93
<u>Street Lighting (SL) – (per Lamp)</u>			\$0.68

