

State Owned Dams

Grid Resilience Grant Funds

Energy and Environment Cabinet

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House Budget Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Protection, Tourism and Energy

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Noon

State-Owned Dams

There are 975 dams in Kentucky. The Commonwealth owns seventy-six (76) of those dams that were primarily built by the state to impound water for recreation, state parks, and drinking water supplies.

- Twenty-five (25) state owned dams are classified High Hazard. Failure may cause loss of life or serious damage to houses, industrial or commercial buildings, important public utilities, main highways or major railroads.
- Seventeen (17) state owned dams are classified Significant Hazard. Failure may cause significant damage to property and project operation, but loss of human life is not envisioned.
- Thirty-four (34) state owned dams are classified Low Hazard. Structures located such that failure would cause loss of the structure itself but little or no additional damage to other property. (34 State Owned)

Screening Process to Prioritize Dams for Action

Basis:

- Dam Hazard Classification(inundation mapping)
- Condition of Dam
- Engineering Assessments
- Observations of Risk
- Compliance Status

FY2024 through FY2026 State Owned Dam Repair Utilization

Dam	Hazard Class	Issues	Project Status	Budget
Willisburg Lake, Washington County	High	Raw water source and regional supply. Failure could cause fatalities, loss of rural highway facility (KY 555)	Design – Bid- Build Construction targeted - Q2 2026	\$14M set aside for construction.
Big Bone Lick State Park Dam, Boone County	Significant	Failure poses significant risk to state property	Design – Bid- Build	\$6M for construction (decommissioning)
Clements (Eagle) Lake Dam, Rowan County	High	Located directly above Morehead State campus. Failure could cause fatalities.	Design – Bid- Build Construction targeted – Q2 2027	\$2.2M for Design & Construction

FY2026 - FY2028 State Owned Dam Repair Governor's Recommended Budget

Dam	Hazard Class	Issues	Project Status	Budget Request
Clements (Eagle) Lake Dam, Rowan County	High	Located directly above Morehead State campus. Failure could cause fatalities.	Design – Bid- Build Construction targeted – Q2 2027	\$13 M
Marion County Sportsman's Dam	High	Operated by KY Dept of Fish & Wildlife. Failure could cause fatalities.	Design – Bid- Build	\$5 M
Chenoa Lake Creek, Bell County	High	Raw water source for the Department of Corrections Bell County Forestry Camp. Failure could cause fatalities.	Design – Bid - Build	\$1M
Cannon Creek Dam, Bell County	High	Raw water source for City of Pineville. Failure could cause fatalities.	Design – Bid- Build	\$1 M
Mud River MPS 51 (Lake Malone), Muhlenberg County	High	Operated by KY Dept of Fish & Wildlife. Failure could cause fatalities.	Rehabilitation Study	\$0.5 M
Routine Repairs/Maintenance		Proactive dam maintenance and upkeep help prevent structural failures and reduce the need for costly design & construction work.		\$0.5M

Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

Kentucky's Grid Resilience Program Update
Provided by: The Kentucky Office of Energy Policy

Kentucky's Subgrant Funding Plan

- 100% of the available Kentucky Section 40101(d) funding is allocated to distribution cooperatives and municipal electric utilities.
 - Years 1-3 (funds received): State Park Facilities and Municipal Electric Utilities
 - Years 4-5 (funds not yet received): Distribution Cooperatives and Municipal Electric Utilities

Before projects can begin, Department of Energy must approve the project plan, and all projects must comply with federal requirements.

Kenlake State Park	Upgrades distribution electric infrastructure to bring the system up to safety code including undergrounding, replacing poles, wires, conductors and transformers, and vegetation management, etc.
Kentucky Dam Village State Park	Upgrades distribution electric infrastructure to bring the system up to safety code including undergrounding, replacing poles, wires, conductors and transformers, and vegetation management, etc.
Owensboro	This project will relocate and replace Owensboro Municipal Utility's Transmission Tower 22 safely away from the riverbank, ensuring reliability for the city of Owensboro and reducing energy security and safety risks on the Ohio River.
Princeton	Princeton Electric Plant Board will enhance the safety and reliability of their electric system through electrical infrastructure upgrades, pole replacement, installation of 4,200 smart meters, and upgrades to their outage management system to quickly and accurately detect outages.
Williamstown	This project will improve the reliability of the electric grid and increase the capacity of Williamstown circuit 43 through the replacement of aging distribution line, distribution poles, conductor upgrades, and service hardening.
Hopkinsville	Hopkinsville Electric System will decrease outage response times through a new outage management system (OMS) and replace approximately 10,000 residential meters to upgrade their advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) platform.

Selected Projects

Progress to Date

Project Name	Federal funds (85%)	State Funds (15%)	Sub-recipient match (1/3 of federal subaward)	Total funds available for project	Status
Kenlake State Park	\$ 5,281,478.93	\$ 792,221.84	\$ 1,760,845.07	\$ 7,834,545.84	Dept. of Parks is finalizing work orders with WKRECC
Kentucky Dam Village State Park	\$ 5,281,478.93	\$ 792,221.84	\$ 1,760,845.07	\$ 7,834,545.84	Dept. of Parks is finalizing work orders with WKRECC
Owensboro	\$ 1,418,437.50	\$ 250,312.50	\$ 472,812.50	\$ 2,141,562.50	contract started 12/1/2025
Princeton	\$ 1,489,375.95	\$ 262,831.05	\$ 496,458.65	\$ 2,248,665.65	contract started 11/1/2025
Williamstown	\$ 972,049.80	\$ 171,538.20	\$ 324,016.60	\$ 1,467,604.60	contract started 11/1/2025
Hopkinsville	\$ 1,315,762.75	\$ 135,680.25	\$ 438,587.58	\$ 1,890,030.58	contract started 12/1/2025
Totals	\$ 15,758,583.85	\$ 2,404,805.68	\$ 5,253,565.48	\$ 23,416,955.01	