

Retirements are Happening Faster than People Realize



Michelle Bloodworth

“The grid transition must be gradual to prevent a reliability crisis and to maintain affordable electricity rates,” said Michelle Bloodworth, President & CEO, America’s Power in addressing the Bluefield Coal Symposium at the Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton, WV. “Coal retirements are happening faster than most people realize, especially over the next five years. Utilities have announced the retirement of 60 MW of coal powered plants during 2024-2028.” (see presentation [here](#)).

Polling shows that reliability and affordability are far more important to electricity consumers than “clean energy”, she said. Coal is needed because of its high accredited capacity value (a measure of dependability) and its reliability attributes such as fuel security.

Bloodworth said that replacement sources of electricity, mainly renewables, are less dependent than coal. For example, coal is 6 times more dependable than solar and 2.4 times more dependable than wind.

“EPA regulations will cause even more retirements and increase the chances of a reliability crisis,” Bloodworth concluded.

The Symposium, presented by the Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias and CoalZoom.com continues today with a Coal Panel moderated by David Kanagy, Executive Director & CEO, Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc. who will examine the future of coal. Over 3 days, over 275 have come to this one-of-a-kind event.