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Kentucky River hydro

All three units at the [Mother Ann Lee](#) hydropower plant are now up and running for the first time in years, reports Louisvillian David Brown Kinloch, one of the plant's owners. Previously, just two turbines were working.

This marks a major personal accomplishment for Brown Kinloch and the Lock 7 Hydro Partners, which also consists of David Coyte of Louisville and Bob Fairchild of Berea, and Salt River Electric Cooperative. The three men have done most of the refurbishing of the plant themselves, while also securing low environmental impact certification.

The plant, located under the limestone cliffs of the river as it moves through Mercer County, was built to generate electricity in 1927 for Kentucky Utilities, but became run down and was retired in 1999 by Kentucky Utilities. It generates enough power to keep the lights on at 2000 homes -- while emitting no heat-trapping gases. It can only be reached by boat or by foot.

E.On customers who purchase green energy help pay for this plant's operation.

I last wrote about it October. Look [here](#).

posted by James Bruggers



**James Bruggers -
Watchdog Earth**

Watchdog Earth is keeping an eye on earth changes and the environment both in Louisville, Ky., and globally. Join award-winning environmental writer James Bruggers in this daily discussion.

As far as he knows, Courier-Journal reporter James Bruggers is about the only journalist covering the environment full time for a Kentucky newspaper, television station or radio station.

A native of Michigan, he lived in the West for more than two decades before coming to the C-J in 2000. He studied journalism, forestry and environmental studies at the University of Montana.

In this blog, Bruggers shares news items and observations from inside the environment beat locally, regionally and globally. He calls your attention to new studies, reports and events. And he goes behind the headlines to answer questions and explain some of his own coverage in the newspaper.

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