

COAL UNIT RETIREMENTS¹

As of December 30, 2015

- ✦ Since 2010, utilities have announced the retirement of a large number of coal-fired electric generating units.² In addition to these retirements, some coal units are converting to natural gas, and a small number are converting to biomass or another fuel. Most of these retirements and conversions have been attributed to EPA policies, although other factors may play a role too.³

- ✦ Table 1 lists 37 states with coal retirements and conversions that have been attributed to EPA policies. These retirements and conversions total 410 units and represent nearly 67,000 megawatts (MW) of electric generating capacity. Approximately 12,000 MW are converting to natural gas, biomass, or another fuel.

- ✦ Table 2 lists all announced coal retirements and conversions, regardless of cause, through 2030. (Table 2 includes the units in Table 1 plus additional retirements and conversions that have not been attributed to EPA policies.) Table 2 shows that 499 units — totaling over 81,000 MW — are slated for retirement or conversion. These units are located in 42 states and represent one-fourth of the U.S. coal fleet that existed in 2010. Approximately 14,000 MW are converting to natural gas, biomass, or another fuel.

- ✦ By the end of 2015, some 47,000 MW will have retired or converted. Between 2016 and 2019, an additional 22,000 MW are expected to retire or convert.⁴

¹ This list of retirements and conversions is based primarily on public announcements by the owners of the coal units. We also use other information sources that are highly reliable. These retirements and conversions are not based on modeling projections.

² In 2010, according to EIA, the U.S. coal fleet was comprised of 1,396 electric generating units at 580 power plants that represented a total electric generating capacity of more than 315,000 MW.

³ “EPA policies” include EPA regulations, as well as settlement agreements resulting from EPA’s New Source Review enforcement activities. Other factors contributing to the shutdowns in Table 1 include low natural gas prices.

⁴ 4,831 MW are slated to retire or convert after 2025.

TABLE 1. Coal Units Retiring or Converting Because of EPA Policies⁵

STATE	MW RETIRING OR CONVERTING	# OF UNITS RETIRING OR CONVERTING
1. Ohio	6,421	40
2. Pennsylvania	5,548	30
3. Alabama	5,166	26
4. Indiana	4,308	25
5. Kentucky	3,471	16
6. Georgia	3,249	15
7. Illinois	2,996	13
8. North Carolina	2,783	20
9. West Virginia	2,737	18
10. Virginia	2,354	16
11. Tennessee	2,299	15
12. Minnesota	2,014	13
13. South Carolina	1,759	14
14. Missouri	1,738	17
15. Arkansas	1,659	2
16. Florida	1,568	7
17. Iowa	1,564	28
18. Oklahoma	1,464	3
19. Massachusetts	1,408	6
20. Texas	1,399	3
21. New Mexico	1,375	5
22. Michigan	1,352	16
23. Maryland	1,319	7
24. Wisconsin	1,287	16
25. Colorado	1,172	11
26. Arizona	822	4
27. Mississippi	706	2
28. Nebraska	637	5
29. Oregon	585	1
30. Louisiana	575	1
31. New York	475	3
32. New Jersey	268	2
33. Utah	172	2
34. Montana	154	1
35. Kansas	92	2
36. Wyoming	49	4
37. South Dakota	22	1
	66,967 MW	410 UNITS

⁵ Most of the coal units listed in the table are retiring; 74 units representing 12,440 MW are converting to natural gas, biomass, or another fuel.

TABLE 2. All Coal Units Retiring or Converting⁶

STATE	MW RETIRING OR CONVERTING	# OF UNITS RETIRING OR CONVERTING
1. Ohio	7,751	43
2. Pennsylvania	5,737	33
3. Alabama	5,166	26
4. Indiana	4,748	30
5. North Carolina	4,288	33
6. Illinois	4,261	18
7. Georgia	3,752	17
8. Kentucky	3,471	16
9. Virginia	2,836	21
10. West Virginia	2,737	18
11. Nevada	2,689	8
12. Tennessee	2,299	15
13. Minnesota	2,152	15
14. Utah	2,072	7
15. Iowa	1,832	32
16. South Carolina	1,759	14
17. Missouri	1,755	18
18. Arkansas	1,659	2
19. New York	1,588	13
20. Florida	1,568	7
21. Wisconsin	1,525	23
22. Massachusetts	1,517	7
23. Oklahoma	1,464	3
24. Michigan	1,433	19
25. Texas	1,399	3
26. Washington	1,376	2
27. New Mexico	1,375	5
28. Maryland	1,319	7
29. Colorado	1,172	11
30. Arizona	822	4
31. Nebraska	757	6
32. Mississippi	706	2
33. Oregon	585	1
34. Louisiana	575	1
35. Delaware	360	4
36. New Jersey	291	3
37. Connecticut	181	1
38. Montana	154	1
39. California	129	3
40. Kansas	92	2
41. Wyoming	49	4
42. South Dakota	22	1
	81,423 MW	499 UNITS

⁶ Most of the coal units in the table are retiring; 93 units representing 13,890 MW are converting to natural gas, biomass, or another fuel.