

# GEORGIA

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*This paper provides information about the importance of coal-fired electricity to Georgia.*

- There are five coal-fired power plants (15 individual coal-fired electric generating units) located in Georgia. Together, these plants represent some 9,300 megawatts (MW) of electric generating capacity.<sup>i</sup> Georgia has the twelfth largest coal-fired electric generating fleet of any state.<sup>ii</sup> Georgia's coal-fired power plants are owned by Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, Jacksonville Electric Authority, Florida Power and Light Company, and Dalton Utilities.<sup>iii</sup>
- Coal-fired electricity is estimated to support 26,500 jobs in Georgia and is responsible for \$6 billion in economic output.<sup>iv</sup>
- During the first four months of 2016 (latest data available), coal ranked third among electricity sources for Georgia.<sup>v</sup> Natural gas provided 41% of Georgia's electricity, with nuclear power providing 27%, coal 23%, and renewables 8%.<sup>vi</sup> In 2014, five of the ten largest power plants in Georgia were coal-fired.<sup>vii</sup>
- Georgia's coal-fired power plants will have invested \$5.6 billion in air pollution control technologies by 2020.<sup>viii</sup> Georgia power plants have reduced emissions of major air pollutants by 91% since 1995.<sup>ix</sup>
- Fifteen (15) coal-fired electric generating units (totaling 3,249 MW) in Georgia have shut down or will be shutting down due to EPA policies.<sup>x</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> SNL Energy data.

<sup>ii</sup> EIA, *Electric Power Monthly*, June 2016.

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iii SNL Energy data.

iv Estimates of the total jobs and economic output attributable to coal-based generation were derived from electric generation and electric utility sales revenue data published by EIA, and state-specific economic multipliers for the electric power industry developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Direct jobs include workers in the generation, transmission, and distribution segments of the electric power industry. Indirect jobs include jobs in supporting industries, including coal mining, coal transportation, and jobs in other industries and communities that benefit from the purchases, wages, and taxes paid by the coal-fired power sector.

v EIA, *Electric Power Monthly*, June 2016.

vi *Ibid.*

vii EIA, *State Electricity Profiles*, Georgia, Table 2, Ten Largest Plants by Generation Capacity, 2014.

viii Energy Ventures Analysis, *Capital Investments in Emission Control Retrofits in the U.S. Coal-fired Generating Fleet through the Years, 2016 Update*, January 26, 2016.

ix EPA Air Markets Program Division Database Query (July 25, 2016). The U.S. coal-fired electric generating fleet has reduced emissions of conventional air pollutants by 92% per kWh since 1970. Nationwide, owners of coal-fired power plants had invested \$111 billion through 2015 to achieve these emission reductions, and they are projected to invest an additional \$16 billion through 2020.

x ACCCE, *Coal Unit Retirements as of June 13, 2016*. Retirements are based on public announcements by the coal unit owners.