

RETIREMENT OF U.S. COAL-FIRED GENERATING UNITS¹

Status as of October 24, 2017

Retirements —

Since 2010, power plant owners have announced the retirement, or conversion to other fuels, of a large number of coal-fired electric generating units.² The table on the following page summarizes all publicly announced retirements through 2030. The table shows that 599 coal-fired generating units in 43 states — totaling almost 108,000 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity — have retired or announced plans to retire. (This represents the retirement of an additional 7,000 MW and 13 coal-fired generating units since the last ACCCE update in June.) These retirements comprise slightly more than one-third of the U.S. coal fleet that existed in 2010. So far, approximately 66,000 MW of coal-fired generating capacity have retired. Between 2018 and 2020, an additional 23,000 MW are expected to retire, bringing total retirements to 89,000 MW by the end of 2020.

EPA-Attributed Retirements —

The table also includes retirements that have been explicitly attributed, at least in part, to EPA regulations and policies. These EPA-caused retirements total 454 units and represent almost 76,000 MW of coal-fired electric generating capacity, with 54,000 MW having already retired.

ISO/RTO Retirements —

Some 45,000 MW of coal-fired generating capacity in ISO/RTO regions have retired. An additional 14,000 MW in these regions are slated to retire over the period 2018 to 2020, of which 8,400 MW have been attributed to wholesale electricity market conditions. The regions with the most retirements from 2010 through 2020 are PJM (30,300 MW); MISO (12,900 MW), ERCOT (5,700 MW), and SPP (4,300 MW).

¹ These retirements and conversions is based primarily on public announcements by the owners of the coal units. We also use other information sources that are reliable. These retirements and conversions are *not* based on modeling projections. We do not include small (less than 25 MW) cogeneration units. Since most of these units are retiring, not converting to another fuel, we use the term “retirements” in this paper to characterize units that may be either retiring or converting.

² In 2010, according to EIA, the U.S. coal fleet was comprised of 1,396 electric generating units located at 580 power plants for a total generating capacity of approximately 317,000 MW.

| | MW RETIRING | UNITS RETIRING |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. Ohio | 11,491 ³ / 6,421 ⁴ | 58 / 40 |
| 2. Indiana | 6,569 / 6,129 | 39 / 34 |
| 3. Illinois | 6,173 / 3,076 | 22 / 14 |
| 4. Pennsylvania | 5,737 / 5,548 | 33 / 30 |
| 5. Texas | 5,672 / 1,399 | 10 / 3 |
| 6. Alabama | 5,166 / 5,166 | 26 / 26 |
| 7. North Carolina | 4,615 / 2,783 | 37 / 20 |
| 8. Michigan | 4,500 / 4,075 | 39 / 31 |
| 9. Kentucky | 3,896 / 3,471 | 18 / 16 |
| 10. Georgia | 3,752 / 3,249 | 17 / 15 |
| 11. Arizona | 3,482 / 3,482 | 8 / 8 |
| 12. Florida | 3,150 / 1,568 | 10 / 7 |
| 13. Virginia | 3,120 / 2,354 | 27 / 16 |
| 14. West Virginia | 2,740 / 2,740 | 18 / 18 |
| 15. Nevada | 2,689 / 0 | 8 / 0 |
| 16. Tennessee | 2,659 / 2,659 | 17 / 17 |
| 17. Colorado | 2,405 / 1,699 | 16 / 13 |
| 18. Missouri | 2,372 / 2,355 | 24 / 23 |
| 19. Minnesota | 2,288 / 2,150 | 17 / 15 |
| 20. Montana | 2,248 / 154 | 5 / 1 |
| 21. Utah | 2,072 / 272 | 7 / 5 |
| 22. Oklahoma | 1,954 / 1,954 | 4 / 4 |
| 23. Iowa | 1,832 / 1,564 | 32 / 28 |
| 24. South Carolina | 1,768 / 1,768 | 14 / 14 |
| 25. Massachusetts | 1,663 / 1,408 | 8 / 6 |
| 26. Arkansas | 1,659 / 1,659 | 2 / 2 |
| 27. New York | 1,588 / 475 | 13 / 3 |
| 28. New Jersey | 1,543 / 268 | 6 / 2 |
| 29. Wisconsin | 1,525 / 1,287 | 23 / 16 |
| 30. Washington | 1,376 / 0 | 2 / 0 |
| 31. New Mexico | 1,375 / 1,375 | 5 / 5 |
| 32. Nebraska | 757 / 637 | 6 / 5 |
| 33. Mississippi | 706 / 706 | 2 / 2 |
| 34. Oregon | 585 / 585 | 1 / 1 |
| 35. Louisiana | 575 / 575 | 1 / 1 |
| 36. Connecticut | 566 / 0 | 2 / 0 |
| 37. Kansas | 478 / 478 | 6 / 6 |
| 38. Delaware | 360 / 0 | 4 / 0 |
| 39. Maryland | 250 / 115 | 3 / 2 |
| 40. North Dakota | 189 / 0 | 1 / 0 |
| 41. California | 129 / 0 | 3 / 0 |
| 42. Wyoming | 49 / 49 | 4 / 4 |
| 43. South Dakota | 22 / 22 | 1 / 1 |
| 43 / 37 States | 107,745 / 75,675 MW | 599 / 454 Units |

³ Total coal retirements.

⁴ Coal retirements attributed to EPA regulations and policies.