
RETIREMENT OF COAL-FIRED ELECTRIC GENERATING UNITS¹

Status as of September 26, 2018

All Coal 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 pages summarizes all publicly announced retirements by state through 2030. The table shows that 637 coal-fired generating units in 43 states — totaling almost 120,000 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity — have retired or announced plans to retire. This retiring capacity represents almost 40 percent of the nation's coal fleet.

Since our July retirements summary, companies have announced the retirement of an additional 4,000 MW of coal-fired generating capacity. Through 2017, approximately 68,000 MW of coal-fired generating capacity had retired. From 2018 to 2020, an additional 26,000 MW are expected to retire.

Retirements Attributed to EPA Policies

The table on the following pages also summarizes retirements that have been attributed by power plant owners to EPA regulations and policies. These EPA-caused retirements through 2030 total 463 units and represent more than 77,000 MW of coal-fired generating capacity. Some 58,000 MW had retired by the end of 2017.

Retirements in ISO/RTO Regions

There are seven ISO/RTO regions in the U.S.³ Over 45,000 MW of coal-fired generating capacity in these regions had retired by the end of 2017. An additional 17,900 MW are expected to retire over the period 2018-2020. Some 12,600 MW of retirements have been attributed to wholesale electricity market conditions. The four regions with the most retirements through 2020 are PJM (32,400 MW), MISO (14,500 MW), ERCOT (5,800 MW) and SPP (5,100 MW).

¹ Retirements and conversions are based primarily on public announcements by the owners of the coal 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, the U.S. coal fleet was comprised of 1,396 electric generating units located at 580 power plants representing a total electric generating capacity of approximately 317,000 MW.

³ The seven ISO/RTOs are CAISO, ERCOT, MISO, ISO-NE, NYISO, PJM and SPP.

	MW RETIRING	UNITS RETIRING
1. Ohio	13,621 ⁴ / 6,421 ⁵	62 / 40
2. Pennsylvania	8,337 / 5,548	37 / 30
3. Indiana	6,569 / 6,129	39 / 34
4. Texas	6,322 / 1,399	11 / 3
5. Illinois	5,663 / 3,076	21 / 14
6. Alabama	5,166 / 5,166	26 / 26
7. Michigan	4,911 / 4,075	44 / 31
8. Florida	4,752 / 1,568	14 / 7
9. North Carolina	4,615 / 2,783	37 / 20
10. Kentucky	4,168 / 3,743	20 / 18
11. West Virginia	4,040 / 2,740	20 / 18
12. Georgia	3,752 / 3,249	17 / 15
13. Arizona	3,482 / 3,482	8 / 8
14. Virginia	3,258 / 2,354	29 / 16
15. Wisconsin	2,928 / 1,287	27 / 16
16. Nevada	2,689 / 0	8 / 0
17. Tennessee	2,659 / 2,659	17 / 17
18. Oklahoma	2,414 / 2,414	5 / 5
19. Colorado	2,405 / 1,699	19 / 16
20. Missouri	2,372 / 2,355	24 / 23
21. Minnesota	2,288 / 2,150	17 / 15
22. Montana	2,248 / 154	5 / 1
23. New Mexico	2,222 / 2,222	7 / 7
24. Utah	2,072 / 272	7 / 5
25. Iowa	1,847 / 1,579	33 / 29
26. South Carolina	1,768 / 1,768	14 / 14
27. New York	1,708 / 475	14 / 3
28. Massachusetts	1,663 / 1,408	8 / 6

⁴ Total coal retirements.

⁵ Of total retirements, these are retirements attributed to EPA regulations and policies.

29. Arkansas	1,659 / 1,659	2 / 2
30. New Jersey	1,543 / 268	6 / 2
31. Washington	1,376 / 0	2 / 0
32. Nebraska	757 / 637	6 / 5
33. Mississippi	706 / 706	2 / 2
34. Maryland	635 / 115	5 / 2
35. Oregon	585 / 585	1 / 1
36. Louisiana	575 / 575	1 / 1
37. Connecticut	566 / 0	2 / 0
38. Kansas	550 / 478	7 / 6
39. Delaware	360 / 0	4 / 0
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	119,640 / 77,269 MW	637 / 463 Units