

Economic Benefits of the Colstrip Steam Electric Station

An Economic Impact Study by Economists at the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research in Cooperation with the Colstrip Steam Electric Station

Plant Overview

The Colstrip power plant in Rosebud County is a vital part of the economy in eastern Montana.

Operated by PPL Montana, the four-unit power plant can produce 2,200 megawatts of coal-fired generation – enough to supply about 1.75 million typical homes. The Colstrip plant is owned by PPL Montana, Puget Sound Energy Inc., Portland General Electric Company, Avista Corporation, PacifiCorp, and NorthWestern Energy.

The plant is the largest employer (including supporting contractors), taxpayer and purchaser of business services in Colstrip and Rosebud County, and, along with the coal mine it supports, provides good paying, family-sustaining jobs for hundreds of people.

Fiscal Impact on State and Local Governments

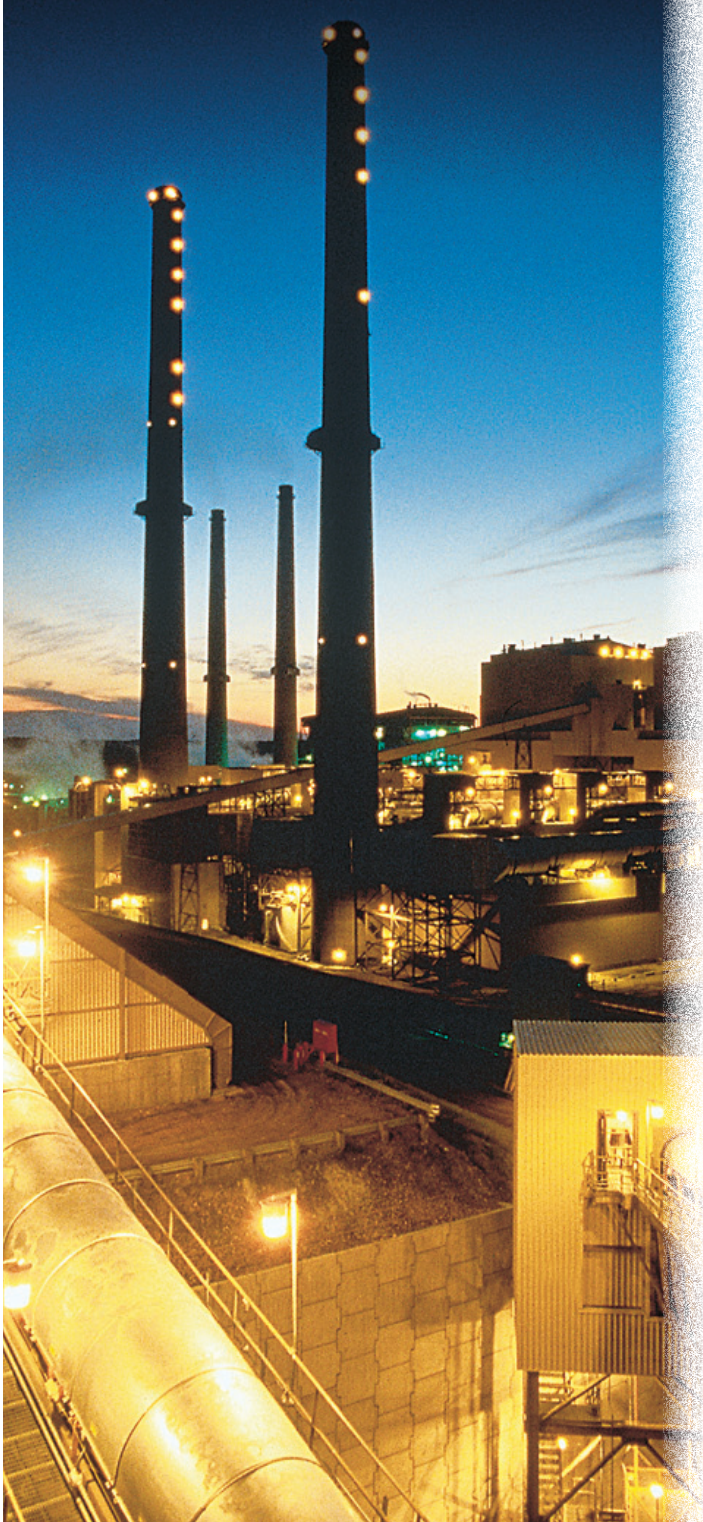
Research conducted by economists at the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research indicates that the Colstrip power plant owners make annual tax payments of approximately \$104 million, which is divided between state and local governments. Montana receives about \$68.2 million, and counties, school districts and special tax districts receive about \$35.7 million.

There are almost 400 employees who work at Colstrip, including plant workers and support personnel, and they pay roughly \$2 to \$3 million in additional property, income, and other taxes that support state and local governments and schools.

To see the complete Colstrip economic report by University of Montana, visit www.colstripeconomicreport.com



PPL MONTANA





Colstrip Steam Electric Station Plant Information

Units 1 & 2

- Owned jointly by PPL Montana & Puget Sound Energy Inc. 50/50
- Produces - 307 megawatts (net) each - plants started up in November 1975 & August 1976
- Fuel - Sub-bituminous coal is delivered to the plant with a combination of coal haulers and a belt system. Units 1 & 2 average yearly coal consumption is 2.8 million tons, or the equivalent of 255 trains a year.
- Emissions - In the top 25% of coal-fired plants for lowest SO₂ emissions. In 2010, these units became one of the first coal-fired plants in the country to control mercury achieving about 90% reduction in mercury emissions.
- Boilers - Combustion Engineering design
- Turbines - General Electric design
- Stack Height - 507 feet

Units 3 & 4

- Owned jointly by PPL Montana, NorthWestern Energy, Puget Sound Energy Inc., Portland General Electric, Avista Corporation and PacifiCorp.
- Produces - 740 megawatts (net) each
Unit 3 commercial operation began on January 10, 1984
Unit 4 commercial operation began on April 1, 1986
- Fuel - Sub-bituminous coal is delivered to the plant by a 4-mile, covered, overland conveyor system. Units 3 & 4 average yearly coal consumption is 6.4 million tons, or the equivalent of 75 trains per month or 2 1/2 trains per day.
- Emissions - In the top 10% of coal-fired plants for lowest SO₂ emissions. In the last two years, these units have installed state-of-the-art nitrogen oxide (NO_x) controls, reducing NO_x emissions by 80%. This places the units in the top third of coal-fired plants for lowest NO_x emissions. In 2010, these units became one of the first coal-fired plants in the country to control mercury achieving about 90% reduction in mercury emissions.
- Boilers - Combustion Engineering design
- Turbines - Westinghouse design
- Stack Height - 692 feet