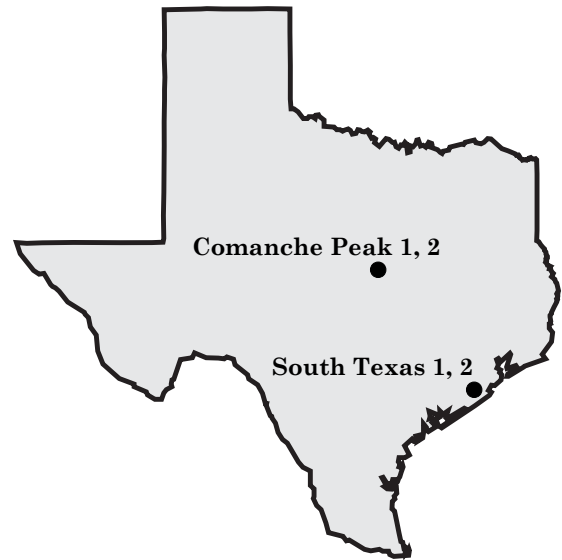


Nuclear Energy in Texas

July 2009

Texas' Electricity Generation

Nuclear	10.1%
Coal	36.7%
Oil	0.0%
Gas	48.7%
Hydro	0.4%
Renewable and Other	4.0%



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), 2008

Nuclear Power Plants in the State

	City	Capacity (MW)	2008 Generation (MWh)	2006-2008 3-year Average Capacity Factor (%)
Comanche Peak 1	Somervell County	1,150	9,658,710	94.4
Comanche Peak 2	Somervell County	1,150	9,575,911	97.3
South Texas Project 1	Bay City	1,280	10,766,736	97.2
South Texas Project 2	Bay City	1,280	10,726,013	96.0
Total		4,860	40,727,370	96.2

Source: EIA

Clean Air Benefits

Economic Growth and Emission-Free Electricity

Texas has experienced an average growth in gross state product of 3 percent per year over the past five years. To keep Texas' economy growing, the state will need new sources of power. At the same time, parts of Texas must deal with poor air quality. Emission-free sources, like nuclear power plants, supply safe, reliable and affordable power to meet the state's economic growth without polluting the air.

Status of the State's Air Quality

A number of counties are in nonattainment for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new eight-hour ozone standard. Most of these counties make up the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston areas, in addition to other areas around the state. Texas' nuclear power plants supply emission-free power to these and other cities and help improve the air quality statewide.



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Nuclear Energy Prevents Emissions

Generating electricity with nuclear energy prevents the emission of pollutants like sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and greenhouse gases like CO₂ associated with burning fossil fuels. The nuclear power plants in Texas avoided the emission of 68,600 tons of SO₂, 19,000 tons of NO_x and 30 million metric tons of CO₂ in the year 2008 (*Source: NEI/EPA*). Emissions of SO₂ lead to the formation of acid rain. NO_x is a key precursor of both ground-level ozone and smog. Greenhouse gases like CO₂ contribute to global warming.

For perspective, the 19,000 tons of NO_x avoided by the nuclear power plants in Texas is the amount of NO_x released in a year by 999,600 passenger cars. There are 8.8 million cars registered in the state of Texas.

Potential Uprates at Nuclear Plants

With additional capital investment, more emission-free power can be generated at most existing nuclear power plants. This process of increasing power output capacity is called an “uprate.” According to an analysis performed for the U.S. Department of Energy, uprates at Texas’ nuclear power plants could supply 3 percent more electricity and avoid annual emissions of 760 tons of SO₂, 400 tons of NO_x and 630,000 tons of CO₂.

New Nuclear Plants

The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that demand for energy will grow 21

percent by the year 2030. To meet this growing electricity demand in a manner that is cost effective and protects our air quality, energy companies are planning to build nuclear power plants to provide affordable electricity to consumers and prevent greenhouse gases. In Texas, Exelon, Luminant and NRG Energy have filed license applications with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to build at least five reactors in Victoria County, Glen Rose and Matagorda County respectively. Amarillo Power/UniStar is planning to build one additional reactor in the vicinity of Amarillo. Upon completion, the plants will provide enough electricity to serve 6.8 million homes annually.

Economic Growth & Job Creation

Nuclear energy is one of the few bright spots in the U.S. economy because it creates more high-paying jobs than other sources of electricity and helps stimulate the economy. On average, a nuclear power plant creates 1,400-1,800 high-paying jobs during construction, with peak employment estimated as high as 2,400 jobs during that period, and yields 400-700 jobs during the operation of the plant. Additionally, the average nuclear plant generates approximately \$430 million a year in total output for the local community and nearly \$40 million per year in total labor income.

This fact sheet is available at www.nei.org, where it is updated periodically.