



Cimarron Solar Facility

Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

Southern Company and Turner Renewable Energy acquired the Cimarron Solar Facility in March 2010, the first acquisition to result from a partnership formed to develop renewable energy resources, with an initial focus on large-scale solar photovoltaic plants in the Southwest.

Location

Colfax County, New Mexico

Current Capacity

30 megawatts

Ownership

Southern Turner
Renewable Energy

Fuel Resource

Photovoltaic Solar

Atlanta-based Southern Company is the premier energy company serving the Southeast and a leading U.S. producer of electricity. With 4.4 million customers and more than 42,000 megawatts of generating capacity, Southern Company owns electric utilities in four states and a growing competitive generation company, as well as fiber optics and wireless communications.

Southern Company

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First Solar developed the project and is the contractor for engineering, procurement and construction, as well as operation and maintenance for the facility. First Solar manufactures solar modules with an advanced semiconductor technology and provides comprehensive photovoltaic system solutions.

Electricity generated by the plant will serve a 25-year power purchase agreement with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a not-for-profit wholesale power supplier to 44 electric cooperatives serving 1.5 million consumers throughout a 250,000 square-mile service territory across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Size

The electricity generated at the facility will supply power equivalent to meet the needs of approximately 9,000 homes. Upon commercial operation, the facility will be one of the largest solar photovoltaic plants in the United States.

Technology

The solar array will consist of approximately 500,000 2'x 4' photovoltaic modules manufactured with First Solar's patented thin film semiconductor technology.

PV modules generate electricity directly from sunlight through an electronic process that occurs naturally in certain types of material, known as semiconductors. Solar energy frees electrons in these materials to travel through an electrical circuit, powering devices or sending electricity to the grid.

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