



Plant Franklin

Combined-Cycle Plant

Plant Franklin is a natural gas-fueled, combined-cycle electric generating plant located in Smiths, AL, near Phenix City, AL and Columbus, GA. The plant is used to generate electricity for the South – the fastest growing region in the country. The plant went online in 2002.



Location

Smiths, AL

Current Capacity

1,806 megawatts

Ownership

Southern Power

Primary Fuel

Natural Gas

Plant Franklin is owned and operated by Southern Power, the subsidiary of Southern Company that acquires, builds, manages and owns generation assets that have been constructed for the wholesale market. Southern Power is among the largest wholesale energy providers in the Southeast, meeting the electricity needs of municipalities, electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. The company owns and operates more than 7,500 megawatts with facilities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina and has an additional 820 megawatts committed to construction in North Carolina and Texas.

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.

Size

The plant consists of three combined-cycle units – one 564 megawatts and two 621 megawatts. The plant has the potential to accommodate up to four units.

Technology

Combined-cycle technology is one of the cleanest and most efficient methods of producing electricity. With this technology, the power plant's combustion turbines make electricity by burning natural gas. Waste heat from the turbines is captured and reused to drive a separate steam turbine that produces additional electricity. Combined-cycle power plants produce high power outputs at high efficiencies and with low emissions. The combustion turbine produces electricity at 18,000 volts and the steam turbine produces electricity at 21,000 before being "stepped up" in a transformer to 230,000 volts for transmission.

Economic Impact

Plant Franklin provides millions of dollars in economic benefits to the city of Smiths, Lee County and the state of Alabama. Nearby counties and the entire state also benefit by job availability and the economic development boost created by having immediate access to a reliable source of electric power.

Southern Power

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