Southern Power announced the acquisition of the Mankato Energy Center in October 2016. The facility represents Southern Power’s first generating asset within the Midcontinent ISO (MISO).

Mankato Energy Center is a natural gas-fired, 1x1 combined-cycle facility contracted with Northern States Power through 2026. An expansion to a 2x1 configuration is currently under development and is expected to be operational by June 2019 to serve an additional 20-year power purchase agreement with Northern States Power.

**Size**
Mankato will include two natural gas units – the existing 375 MW Mankato Energy Center I and the 345 MW Mankato Energy Center II expansion. When complete, the Mankato Energy Center will represent 720 MW of generating capacity.

**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 Mankato combustion turbine produces electricity at 15,000 volts before being “stepped up” in a transformer to 115,000 volts for transmission, while the steam turbine produces electricity at 19,500 volts before being “stepped up” in a transformer to 345,000 volts for transmission. For the expansion, the combustion turbine will produce electricity at 16,500 volts which will be “stepped up” to 115,000 volts.

**Economic Impact**
Mankato Energy Center provides economic benefits to the city of Mankato, surrounding counties and the state of Minnesota. 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.