

A Dwindling Role for Coal

*Tracking the Electricity Sector
Transition and What It Means for
the Nation*

www.ucsusa.org/coaltransition

Appendix: Technical Document

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This document details the methods and data used in the Clean Energy Transition analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). The full suite of materials, including a fact sheet, community snapshots, and interactive maps, can be found online at www.ucsusa.org/coaltransition.

The analysis is rooted in the work of two prior UCS reports: *Ripe for Retirement: The Case for Closing America's Costliest Coal Plants* (Cleetus et al. 2012) and *Ripe for Retirement: An Economic Analysis of the US Coal Fleet* (Fleischman et al. 2013). As in the previous analyses, this study assesses the economic competitiveness of the current coal fleet by comparing the operating costs of today's coal generators to those of other energy resources. By combining the resulting findings with public data on planned future retirements, the analysis illuminates the potential scale and scope of the fleet's transition over the coming years.

In addition to looking forward, however, this iteration of the analysis also looks back. In recognition of the fact that the US power sector has quickened its retreat from coal even since the 2012 and 2013 UCS reports, this analysis also characterizes and quantifies the extent of the coal fleet evolution between 2008 and 2016, providing past context for the future transition.

Finally, this work also expands on the previous analyses by including a proximity analysis that considers how the transition at the fleet level has been reflected in communities living close to coal generators across the country—and how it could be reflected as the transition continues. Following methodologies established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the project includes a proximity analysis for all coal units operating in 2008, identifying the total population, as well as the minority and low-income populations, living within a three-mile radius of individual coal units. From there, the analysis considers whether and when coal units located in these communities retired or converted to a different fuel, as well as whether and which additional units in these communities may be uneconomic. This analysis follows methods established by the EPA for its *EJ Screening Report for the Clean Power Plan* (EPA 2015), and additionally used in its EJSCREEN Tool, as found online at www.epa.gov/ejscreen.

This document contains a section on methodology and assumptions followed by a section describing detailed results and findings. The first section includes an explanation of the methodology and assumptions for (1) identifying and characterizing the coal units operating—and retiring or converting—in 2008, 2016, and the near future; (2) calculating the operating costs used to identify uneconomic coal units; (3) assessing the costs of alternative resources used to conduct the economic stress test, as well as sensitivities, the presence of pollution control technologies, and limitations of the analysis; and (4) implementing and characterizing the proximity analysis, including data sources and limitations. The section on detailed results and findings includes (1) the results of our economic stress test in comparison to different alternative resources; (2) the results of our calculation of the monetized value of emissions reductions from 2008 to 2016; (3) an assessment of the fraction of coal units missing pollution control technologies; (4) the findings from the proximity analysis; and (5) an assessment of potential resources available to replace lost coal generation. Finally, detailed tables showing assumptions and results appear at the end of this technical appendix, and we have also made available a downloadable spreadsheet containing plant-level data and results at www.ucsusa.org/CoalTransitionData.

Methodology and Assumptions

Characterizing the 2008 Coal Fleet

Coal generating units are identified using the database maintained by S&P Global Market Intelligence as of July 2017 (S&P Global 2017). To ensure we identified all units that burn some amount of coal, including those that cofire with natural gas or switch between these two fuels, we pulled information at the power plant unit level for both the coal and natural gas fuel groups.

Also, because the database reports only primary, secondary, and tertiary fuels for each unit at the present time and does not report fuel types that may have been used at these units in previous years, it was necessary to identify the current coal fleet in 2016 and work backwards to build the 2008 fleet. Our methodology, therefore, (1) identifies units that burned coal in 2016 and that contributed to meeting retail electricity demand; (2) identifies coal units that retired between 2008 and 2016, inclusive; and (3) identifies units that converted from burning coal to burning natural gas or biomass over that same period. The combination of these three categories (Operating in 2016, Retired, and Converted) represents the list of units that burned coal in 2008 to meet retail electricity demand. Because of limitations in data reporting, it is possible to miss coal units that were operating in 2008 with this methodology, particularly those that burn small amounts of coal or are cofiring or fuel-switching units. We partially address this shortcoming by comparing the 2008 fleet to the units identified in the original *Ripe for Retirement* analysis in 2011 (Cleetus et al. 2012) and adding back in any units that were not captured by the present methodology.

Characterizing the 2016 Coal Fleet

Once we constructed the 2008 universe of coal units and categorized their 2016 status, we analyzed the potential future status of those units identified as Operating in 2016. Previously retired and converted units are not considered. We identify units that have been announced for retirement at some future date based on either S&P Global's database or independently verified information from press reports and/or company statements. The list of announced units includes any that have already retired in 2017. We have also identified units that have announced they will be converting to natural gas (or another fuel) as a fuel source or be replaced with new natural gas power plants at the same location as the retiring coal unit. These are labeled as Conversions. Finally, the remaining units that have not been announced for retirement or conversion to a different fuel source are considered in the economic stress test.

Our analysis evaluates the economic competitiveness of the coal generators in the 2016 operational coal fleet compared to current resource alternatives. We do so by answering one simple question: Does the coal unit produce power at a cost that is competitive with current alternatives? If the answer is no—meaning that it is more expensive to produce electricity from that coal unit than it is to produce electricity from a competing source—then we consider it uneconomic.¹

As the first step in our methodology, we calculate the current base running costs of each coal generating unit used to meet retail electricity demand in 2016 by adding the cost of the coal itself (including transportation) to fixed and variable operations and maintenance (O&M) costs, measured in dollars per megawatt-hour (\$/MWh) of power production at its 2016 capacity factor.² Our analysis then compares the calculated base running cost against the cost of producing power from several competitive energy resources: existing natural gas combined-cycle (NGCC) plants, new NGCC plants,³ new wind power facilities, and new utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) power facilities. If a coal unit's base running cost is higher than at least one of these competing alternatives, then we characterize that unit as uneconomic or "ripe for retirement." Table A1 summarizes the current status of the 2008 coal fleet and potential future status of the 2016 coal fleet by number of units, capacity, and generation. The potential future status of the 2016 coal fleet is based on our reference case comparing the cost of producing electricity from each coal unit to the cost of producing electricity from an existing NGCC unit.

We also compare the cost of energy from each coal unit to other resource options, including new-build NGCC, land-based

¹ Other factors also influence the decision of whether to retire a specific coal unit, such as reliability constraints, the availability and proximity of alternative resources, local politics, or the regulatory regime in which the unit operates. Some of these unevaluated factors could lead plant owners to continue operating specific coal generators even as they are uneconomic compared to potential alternatives.

² Eighty-four units, totaling about 1 percent of the 2016 operating fleet capacity, were excluded from the economic stress test due to a lack of available data or apparent errors in S&P Global reporting.

³ For the comparison to existing or new NGCC, we assume that the NGCC unit would run at the same capacity factor as the coal unit under consideration.

wind, and solar PV. As a final piece of our economic stress test analysis, we also evaluate comparable costs under four different sensitivities, including high and low natural gas fuel prices and with an assumed price on carbon dioxide (CO₂) of \$10 and \$25 per metric ton (\$/ton) to reflect the potential for future policies to curb carbon emissions or, in the alternative, as a proxy for other potential additional costs on fossil fuel combustion, such as increasingly stringent pollution standards, increases in the cost of delivered fuel, or increases in O&M costs as the coal fleet ages. These alternative comparisons and sensitivities help us understand the range of the 2016 coal fleet that may become economically uncompetitive under potential future conditions even though it may have passed our primary economic stress test.

CALCULATING THE BASE RUNNING COSTS OF THE COAL UNITS

To estimate base running costs for each 2016 operational coal unit, we added the cost of fuel to fixed and variable O&M costs. Capital costs already incurred to construct the coal unit were not included as these are typically considered “sunk” costs that do not factor into an operator’s decision whether to run or idle the unit. Fuel costs were determined by using heat input at the unit level, heat content of coal burned, and delivered cost of coal to each unit as reported by S&P Global as of July 10, 2017. Where unit-specific data were unavailable, we used North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) region averages for delivered coal by coal type. Total fuel costs were then divided by the units’ net generation to arrive at a cost of fuel in \$/MWh. After excluding coal units with missing or anomalous data and those from outside the power sector (e.g., industrial units), we evaluated 622 units with a combined capacity of 280 gigawatts (GW).

Fixed and variable O&M costs are sourced from a special reliability assessment conducted by NERC (NERC 2010) and also used by a later study on the economic merit of coal fired power plants in the west (Fisher and Biewald 2011). Table A2 shows our assumptions for such costs (in 2016\$), which decline as the size of the coal unit (in generating capacity) increases. Reported 2016 capacity factors were then used to convert fixed O&M costs to \$/MWh.

ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING THE COST OF ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES

The cost and performance assumptions for the alternative technologies are listed in Table A3. For comparison to existing NGCC units, capital costs were not included as these costs would typically not be included in a decision to operate or idle an existing power generating unit. Doing this allows us to better understand the market dynamics of existing resources. However, when comparing coal units to a new NGCC, wind, or solar unit, we included capital and financing costs for these alternative resources.

To calculate natural gas fuel costs at both existing and new NGCC units, we included assumptions for fuel escalation rates and levelizing factors to arrive at a levelized fuel cost. The use of fuel escalation rates and levelizing factors also allowed us to evaluate more accurately high and low natural gas price sensitivities to reflect the impact of a change in natural gas price trajectory on current market dynamics.

Assumptions were largely taken from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s (NREL) *2016 Annual Technology Baseline* (Hand et al. 2016) except for fuel prices, escalation rates, and levelizing factors, which were drawn from the Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) *Annual Energy Outlook for 2017* (EIA 2017a). For wind and solar resource cost assumptions, we assume the federal production tax credit (PTC) applies to wind and the investment tax credit (ITC) applies to solar resources. Solar costs are expressed in Alternating Current and are for a fixed axis system.

To account for regional variations in cost and performance, regional multipliers were developed based on data extracted from NREL’s Regional Energy Deployment System (ReEDS) model as detailed in the 2016 ReEDS model documentation (Eurek et al. 2016) and based on UCS’s reference case modeling runs completed in 2017. Finally, assumed regional capacity factors for wind and solar resources are also based on data extracted from the ReEDS model inputs and outputs from UCS’s reference case modeling runs completed in 2017.

To derive an assumed capacity factor for potential replacement wind and solar resources located in geographic proximity to the coal unit in question, we averaged capacity factors for new-build wind and solar resources in our ReEDS reference case in the same ReEDS region (or surrounding regions) in which the coal unit is located. By taking this approach, we could align the assumed potential for wind and solar resources with the geographic location of the coal unit in question.

ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING OUR SENSITIVITIES

We also analyzed the economic competitiveness of coal units under a variety of sensitivities, including high and low natural gas prices and a \$10/ and \$25/ton price on CO₂ emissions. High and low natural gas prices are drawn from EIA’s *Annual Energy*

Outlook 2017 using the High and Low Oil and Gas Resources cases respectively. The \$10 and \$25/ton CO₂ prices represent a conservative range of prices reflected in utility resource planning as reported in Joseph Kruger’s 2017 review of utility integrated resource planning efforts (Kruger 2017). Under the carbon price scenario, the price on carbon was applied to both NGCC and coal units. Our methodology and assumptions other than natural gas prices and assumed carbon prices remain constant for our alternative scenarios to allow for appropriate comparison.

ASSESSING CURRENTLY INSTALLED POLLUTION CONTROLS FOR THE 2016 OPERATING COAL FLEET

To better understand today’s coal fleet and the change it has undergone since 2008, we also looked at pollution controls installed on each coal unit that we evaluated with the economic stress test. This allows us to better understand how the coal fleet is changing over time with regard to pollution controls and to understand differences in the characteristics of each category of units (Announced, Uneconomic, and Remaining). Information on installed pollution controls was drawn from Synapse’s Coal Asset Valuation Tool (CAVT) (Synapse Energy Economics 2015). If a unit was absent from this dataset, our secondary source for currently installed pollution controls was the EPA’s National Electric Energy Data System (NEEDS) version 5.15 (EPA 2016a).⁴ Units were referenced individually to collect information on pollution controls for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter, and mercury.

LIMITATIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The US electric power system is dynamic and complex. Any macrolevel economic analysis of the possible fate of individual power providers is inherently uncertain. Our analysis is not a prediction of what will happen to the US coal power fleet, but rather an effort to identify those coal generators that are most vulnerable to the current and near-term economic conditions in their respective power markets. We do not attempt to analyze the dynamic power market conditions of each coal unit that will ultimately influence the decisionmaking of unit owners or operators. Factors such as the availability of alternative resources; whether the coal unit is owned by a regulated utility that can recover above-market prices from ratepayers or a merchant regulator subject to wholesale market price fluctuations; a coal unit’s location on the power grid and its contribution to meeting peak demand or reliability requirements; how investors are accounting for future costs; and local and regional policy priorities can each weigh heavily on a unit owner’s decision to retire or continue operating any particular coal unit.

Our analysis also represents a relatively narrow slice of time, attempting to look at the current market forces and economic competitiveness of coal units today rather than a more holistic, forward-looking, and longer-term assessment of each unit’s economic viability compared to alternative resources. As fuel prices, capital costs, and other key factors shift, so too will the economic competitiveness of individual coal units. Further, retiring uneconomic units and replacing them with cleaner alternatives will happen over a period of several years, making this analysis informative rather than determinative.

Proximity Analysis

The proximity analysis component was intended to provide a high-level screen of the communities living near coal plants. Given the magnitude of the transition underway—including that which has already occurred, as well as that which is still to come—this analysis aimed to illuminate the ways in which the coal fleet transition is progressing through communities across the country. The assessment was composed of a summary of the total population living within a three-mile radius of a coal unit, as well as the minority (all other than non-Hispanic, white-alone individuals, as defined by the US Census) and low-income (at or below double the federal poverty level) shares of that population. As a result, the proximity analysis provided only an initial high-level screen for characterizing possible large-scale trends; though it pulled from the EPA’s EJSCREEN Tool (EPA 2016b), it was not itself an environmental justice analysis.

This section of the technical document contains a detailed explanation of the methods used to conduct the proximity analysis, a listing and explanation of the data sources used, and a consideration of the method’s assumptions and limitations.

⁴ We were not able to determine the presence of pollution controls on seven units that did not appear in either database.

FIGURE A1. Illustrative Census Block Groups within a Radius Around a Point

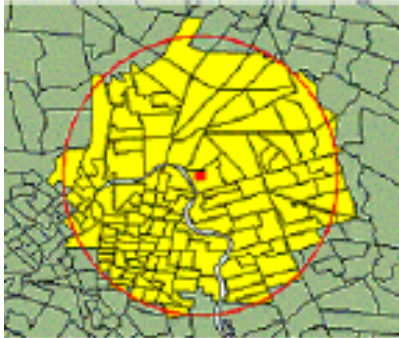


Figure from EPA (2015) shows how census block groups may be included or excluded from a defined radius around a given point (see text).

SOURCE: EPA (2015)

APPROACH

This work followed the proximity analysis methodology established for the EPA’s EJSCREEN Tool and applied in the agency’s 2015 *EJ Screening Report for the Clean Power Plan* (EPA 2015). The methodology is detailed in the agency’s most recent technical report, *EJSCREEN Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool: EJSCREEN Technical Documentation—Draft* (EPA 2016c), and summarized here.

At a high level, this analysis was designed to determine the total population, minority population, and low-income population living within three miles of each coal unit of focus. Because these demographics are reported at a geographic resolution different from that of a three-mile buffer (see, e.g., Figure A1), however, the analysis required calculating a population-weighted average to approximate the population findings.

Specifically, this proximity analysis drew upon demographic data available at the census block group level, which can range widely in area and shape. A three-mile buffer could capture many block groups in a densely populated area

or just one to a few block groups in a rural area. This proximity analysis combined the demographics data for multiple block groups by calculating a population-weighted average.

When block groups are completely contained within a buffer, the data can be aggregated as is. However, when a buffer bisects a block group, the implicated population must be apportioned between that which falls inside the buffer and that which falls outside. This analysis apportioned intersected block groups by weighting the block groups according to the census blocks—one level of resolution finer than census block groups—that had centroids falling within the buffered portion of the block group (Chakraborty, Maantay, and Brender 2011). Such an apportionment approach allows for recognition of variations in population density across a census block group; however, it cannot identify whether pockets of specific demographics exist in one part of a block group as opposed to another. These and additional limitations are considered further below.

A final complication is that the date of collection differs for the various levels of resolution. This analysis, by way of the EJSCREEN v3 geodatabase (EPA 2016b), relied on the American Community Survey (ACS) 2010–2014 dataset for minority and income information. However, this information is reported out only at the census block group level. Census block data, on the other hand, are collected only decennially; therefore, the population-weighted average included a scaling adjustment to recognize the change in population from the 2010 Census to ACS 2010–2014. There are also additional uncertainties introduced by the ACS data, as the census provides a complete count at one point in time while the ACS collects a stratified random sample of more than 200,000 households each month, here aggregated in the five-year summary form.

The final proximity analysis calculation can be summarized for the population of a given demographic value within a study area *A* as follows (EPA 2016c; Krieger et al. 2016):

$$Value(A) = \sum_{\forall B_{1k}, B_{1k} \cap A} \frac{\frac{BlockPop10}{BGPop10} * BGACSPop * BG_RawValue}{\sum_{\forall B_{1k}, B_{1k} \cap A} \frac{BlockPop10}{BGPop10} * BGACSPop}$$

Here, *BlockPop10* refers to the 2010 Census block-level population, *BGPop10* refers to the 2010 Census block group-level population, *BGACSPop* refers to the ACS 2010–2014 block group-level population estimate, and *BG_RawValue* refers to the ACS 2010–2014 block group-level raw demographic indicator value.

The resulting output generates, per coal unit point location, the total estimated population within a three-mile radius as well as the percentage share of the low-income and minority populations. The EJSCREEN tool also generates the associated

percentile for each raw value at the state, regional, and national levels. These percentiles generally convey the percentage of the national (or state, or regional) population living in a block group with a lower value (EPA 2016c).

This analysis relied on the EPA’s EJSCREEN batch tool script (EPA 2016d), as provided by the agency in May 2017, for the final unit-level and power plant-level output values. For total population numbers, however, this analysis relied on a separately generated, though similarly calculated, process. This was conducted via ArcGIS and performed to capture the adjusted census blocks a single time nationwide in order to avoid double counting between colocated units and colocated or adjacent (i.e., with overlapping buffers) power plants.

CHARACTERIZATION OF PROXIMITY ANALYSIS FINDINGS

After gathering data on two demographic variables (low-income and minority population living within three miles of a coal generating unit), we built a national picture of the demographics of communities with coal-fired power plants aggregated by current and future operational status of those coal units. Specifically, the EJSCREEN batch tool script provides the raw values⁵ for each demographic variable—that is, the percentage of the total population living within three miles of the specified unit location that is identified as minority (that is, all other than non-Hispanic, white-only individuals) and also the percent low income (defined as twice the federal poverty level). Importantly, EJSCREEN also puts these raw values in the context of the state, region, and nation by providing the percentile value for each study area in each of these three geographic breakdowns. This makes it simpler to compare how a given community ranks compared to the full population of the state or EPA region where it is located or to the national population. Thus, a coal plant community ranking in the 20th percentile for its state implies that 20 percent of the census blocks in the state would rank lower in terms of minority population.

These percentile rankings can vary significantly when considered relative to the state or national values. This analysis focuses on the state percentiles for each coal plant community because comparing to the national averages or medians might mask demographic differences among states. For example, consider a state with a lower average minority population compared to the national average; a given coal plant community in that state might have a higher proportion of minority residents by state standards, but that information might be missed by comparing to the national average. Figure A2 illustrates the differences between the state and national demographics for the communities surrounding the entire US coal fleet in 2008 and 2016.

To provide context for the demographic and income data we gathered, we present the information in terms of how it compares to the rest of the population in the state. Specifically, we note whether a value falls above or below the state’s median, which is calculated here as half the population in the state living in a community⁶ with a lower data point. In other words, for the aggregation of coal units by current and future operating status, we tabulate whether the surrounding community has a state percentile for each demographic variable that is above the 50th percentile. This effectively compares the coal unit community’s ranking in each demographic indicator separately to the state median for each indicator.

DATA SOURCES

The proximity analysis relied on a range of data sources, as recorded here.

The analysis itself was conducted for each coal unit identified according to the “Characterizing the 2008 Coal Fleet” and “Characterizing the 2016 Coal Fleet” sections above. Latitude and longitude information for each unit was determined via S&P Global (2017) and cross-checked with EIA’s generator inventory based on Form EIA-860 (EIA 2016).

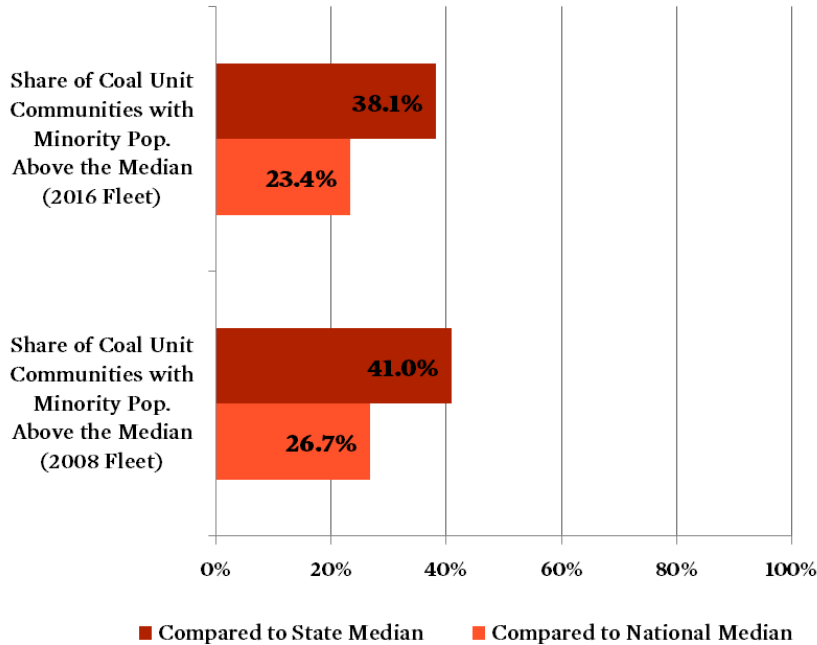
Total population and block group values were taken from ACS 2010–2014, via EJSCREEN v3 (EPA 2016b). Census blocks were available from the 2010 Census, as population at that geographic resolution are collected and distributed only decennially.

Unit-level analyses were conducted using the EJ Screen batch tool (EPA 2016d), run using ArcGIS. National population figures were calculated directly through ArcGIS applying the same population-weighted average approach, but excluding overlaps in buffers to avoid double counting.

⁵ EJSCREEN provides a number of other demographic variables that were not considered in this analysis.

⁶ Here, *community* refers to census block groups, which are Census-designated areas typically containing between 600 and 3,000 people.

FIGURE A2. Share of Minority Population Located Near Coal Units Compared to the State and National Median



This chart shows the share of coal unit communities—defined as the population living within three miles of a coal generator—with a minority population above the median. It also illustrates the difference in this share, depending on whether a comparison is made to the state median value or the national median value. The dark red bars show the fraction of coal unit communities (in 2008 and 2016) that are above the state median minority population; the light red bars show the fraction that are above the national median. In other words, in 2016, 38.1 percent of coal units were in communities that were above their respective state medians in terms of the fraction minority population, whereas 23.4 percent topped the national median.

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

The proximity analysis was intended to assist in characterizing, at a national level, the communities living near coal units and to shed light on how the transition of the coal fleet more broadly has been playing out for these communities across the country. Critically, the proximity analysis is not intended to be an environmental justice analysis (e.g., Deplet-Barreto et al. 2017; Wilson et al. 2012). Still, this effort has played a beneficial role in informing what a just transition must consider as policies are designed to cut pollution and support and strengthen these communities over time. It brings people into the equation.

It is critical to acknowledge the limitations of this specific approach, as well as the risks of insufficiently grounding the limitations of the resultant findings. In particular, a national-level screen cannot address the fact that every single community, and adjacent coal plant, is different. Between differences in plant sizes, operation styles (e.g., peaking vs. steady operations), specific fuel types, and pollution controls, to community settlement patterns, presence (or absence) of additional pollution sources, economic diversity and access, and more, it is critical to recognize that what applies in one location may not apply in another. Therefore, this analysis is intended to inform at a high level, not at a community-specific level. Recognizing that limitation, we highlighted different qualitative aspects of the transition through four community snapshots, described in the accompanying fact sheet and available in an interactive web feature at www.ucsusa.org/communitysnapshots.

Additionally, the characterization of those living within three miles of a coal unit captures only one segment of the population affected by coal plant operations. The negative effects of coal operations are far reaching, from power plant pollutants that travel to communities located hundreds of miles away, to negative effects arising from associated coal-fired generation activities, such as dust generated by coal transport from mine to plant, the disposal of coal ash waste, or upstream health and environmental impacts on coal mining communities. This proximity analysis was not intended to be a public health study or even an approximation of health impacts. Instead, it is a screen of communities living within close proximity of a coal plant, intended to inform about that which has already occurred, as well as to help guide policymaking in anticipation of what might happen in the future. Importantly, a proximity analysis cannot address questions about why there may be disparities in plant location in the first place, e.g., whether a coal plant was located in a low-income community originally or whether only low-income communities developed after construction.

The proximity analysis followed previous methodological approaches (Krieger et al. 2016; EPA 2015). Still, the design of the proximity analysis itself does have limitations. First, by applying a buffer approach, the analysis had to include a population-weighted average to capture partially contained areas (see methodology detailed above). This allowed for a potentially fuller analysis than simply characterizing the census block group within which a coal unit fell; however, it also introduced a range of uncertainties. Most important among these is that while the use of block-level centroids allowed for a strong estimate of population density within captured and excluded areas, it could not inform whether specific demographic pockets existed within a census block group, as the block-level information captured only population, not additional demographics. However, it was ultimately deemed preferable to either a real apportionment or simple block group-level association.

Two additional caveats are directly related to the data. First, though the coal fleet is tracked over time, the proximity analysis was conducted for a single snapshot, namely, using ACS 2010–2014 (and 2010 Census data for apportionment). This was an intentional decision to standardize findings; however, it would fail to capture any significant demographic changes that could have occurred in a community immediately after a coal plant closure, should that closure have occurred in the early years of this analysis. Second, for income characterization, the ACS reports findings only as a share of those for whom income status was determined. This frequently means that some small subset of the population is omitted.

Finally, this proximity analysis is organized around coal units. That means that a community could be characterized multiple times if more than one unit is located at a single site. When characterizing the communities in which coal units are located, such an approach makes sense. However, the analysis also aggregated findings to the plant level—and the national, no-overlapping-buffers level—for specific conclusions and characterizations. Additionally, the analysis did not track the communities in which a new power plant was built after a plant in a different community was closed. This is a significant and important outcome arising from the energy system transition more broadly; however, this analysis focused solely on the transition of the coal fleet itself.

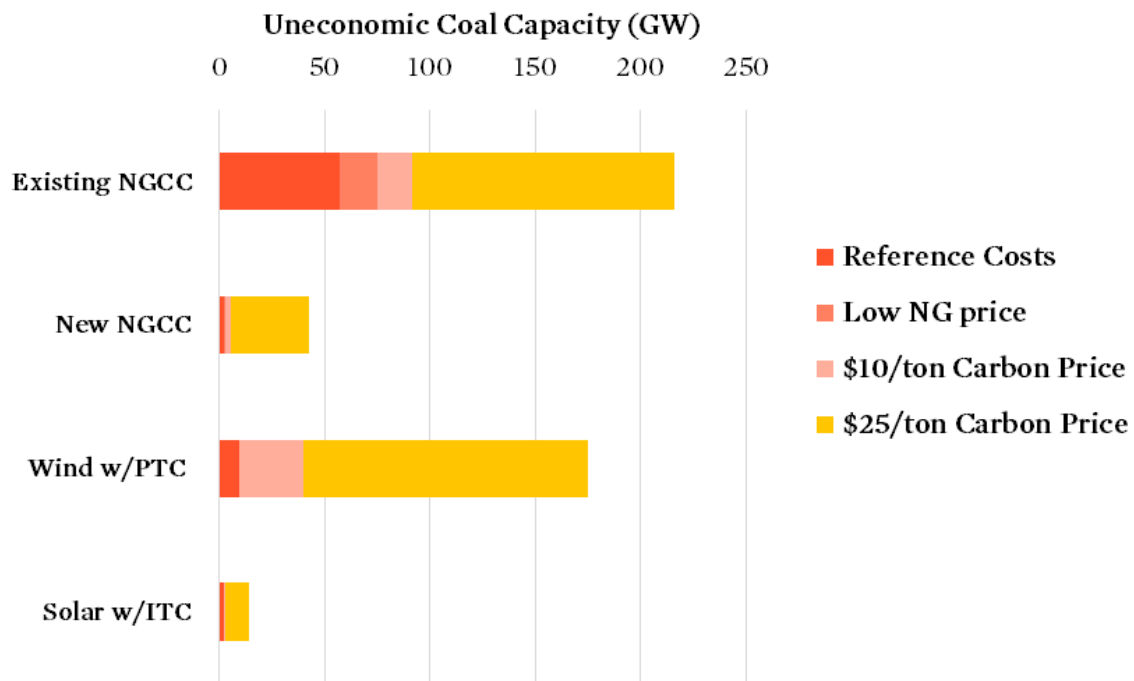
Detailed Results and Findings

Characterizing the 2016 Coal Fleet

Figure A3 shows the results of our economic stress test under the various scenarios. When comparing each coal unit’s current cost of generating electricity to the cost of generating electricity from an existing NGCC unit, 20 percent of the 2016 coal fleet—122 units representing 57 GW of capacity—is uneconomic, meaning its costs are higher than that of an existing NGCC unit. When combined with 163 coal units representing 51 GW of capacity that have already announced plans for retirement or conversion to a different fuel source, 38 percent of today’s coal fleet faces an uncertain near-term future. Under current operating costs, 36 coal units totaling 9.3 GW are also uneconomic compared to regional onshore wind resources and 17 units totaling 2.2 GW are uneconomic compared with regional utility-scale solar PV. Coal units face the least pressure from new-build NGCC units. Only 6 units totaling 2.2 GW of capacity are uneconomic compared to new NGCC.

The economic competitiveness of the nation’s coal fleet changes significantly with only modest changes in cost assumptions. Under our low natural gas price scenario, the number of units that are uneconomic compared to existing NGCC grows to 169, representing 75 GW of capacity, or 26 percent of the 2016 fleet. Further, when we assume a \$10/ton price on CO₂ emissions as a proxy for potential carbon regulation or a host of other potential cost increases that might impact fossil fuel power generation in the

FIGURE A3. Sensitivity of Uneconomic Coal Capacity Compared to Different Alternative Resources



Each bar shows the amount of uneconomic coal capacity in GW compared to alternative resources, including existing NGCC, new NGCC, wind with the production tax credit (PTC), and solar with the investment tax credit (ITC). Reference case cost assumptions are shown in red, and each additional color shows how much more coal is uneconomic under different cost assumptions.

near term,⁷ the number of coal units (and the capacity they represent) that are uneconomic compared to wind and solar resources grows substantially. Under an assumed \$10/ton price on CO₂, 99 units representing 40 GW of capacity are uneconomic compared to regional wind resources. Similarly, 21 units representing 2.8 GW of capacity are uneconomic compared with regional solar resources under this scenario. When the price on CO₂ is increased to \$25/metric ton, 62 percent of the 2016 coal fleet—371 units totaling 175 GW of capacity—are uneconomic compared to regional wind resources. A summary of results of our economic stress test scenarios can be found in Figure A3 and Table A4.

The ongoing transition away from coal most heavily affects smaller and less-frequently run coal units. A look at the size and capacity factors of the 2016 coal fleet shows that those units likely to remain economically competitive into the near future are larger units, with an average size of 510 MW compared to 469 MW for those that were uneconomic and 317 MW for announced retirements and conversions (see Table A5). Uneconomic units also ran less often: operating at a 2016 capacity factor of 41 percent compared to 58 percent for those units that passed our economic stress test. Those units already announced for retirement were the smaller, older units of the 2016 fleet that ran the least often, with an average capacity factor of 35 percent and an average age of 49 years.

Tables A6, A7, and A8 show the characteristics of the 2008 and 2016 coal fleets by state in terms of number of units, capacity, and generation, respectively.

Estimate of Monetized Value of Emissions Reductions

We calculated a rough estimate of the change in emissions at the national level based on the coal fleet characterized above. By aggregating emissions data (S&P Global 2017) for SO₂, NO_x, and CO₂ for all the coal units in the 2008 fleet, we estimate the emissions reductions from these 1,256 units between 2008 and 2016 as a result of the combination of coal retirements, conversion to other fuels, change in usage, and pollution control equipment installed in response to environmental standards; we found an 80 percent reduction in SO₂, a 64 percent reduction in NO_x, and a 34 percent reduction in CO₂. Since this estimate focused only on the coal fleet, it does not capture any increase in emissions from new natural gas power plants.

To estimate the monetized value of these aggregated emissions reductions, we calculate the amount of each pollutant reduced between 2008 and 2016 from the 1,256 units we identified and then multiply by the value of emissions reductions for each pollutant. To estimate the costs of SO₂ and NO_x, we used the per-ton estimates calculated by the EPA (2013). For the benefits of CO₂ reductions, we use the social cost of carbon updated in 2016 (Interagency Working Group 2016). Assumptions are summarized in Table A9. Based on the change in emissions from 2008 to 2016 from these 1,256 coal units, we estimate public health benefits of \$211 billion from SO₂ reductions, \$9.4 billion from NO_x reductions, and \$30 billion from CO₂ reductions, for a total of \$250 billion.

Pollution Controls on the 2016 Coal Fleet

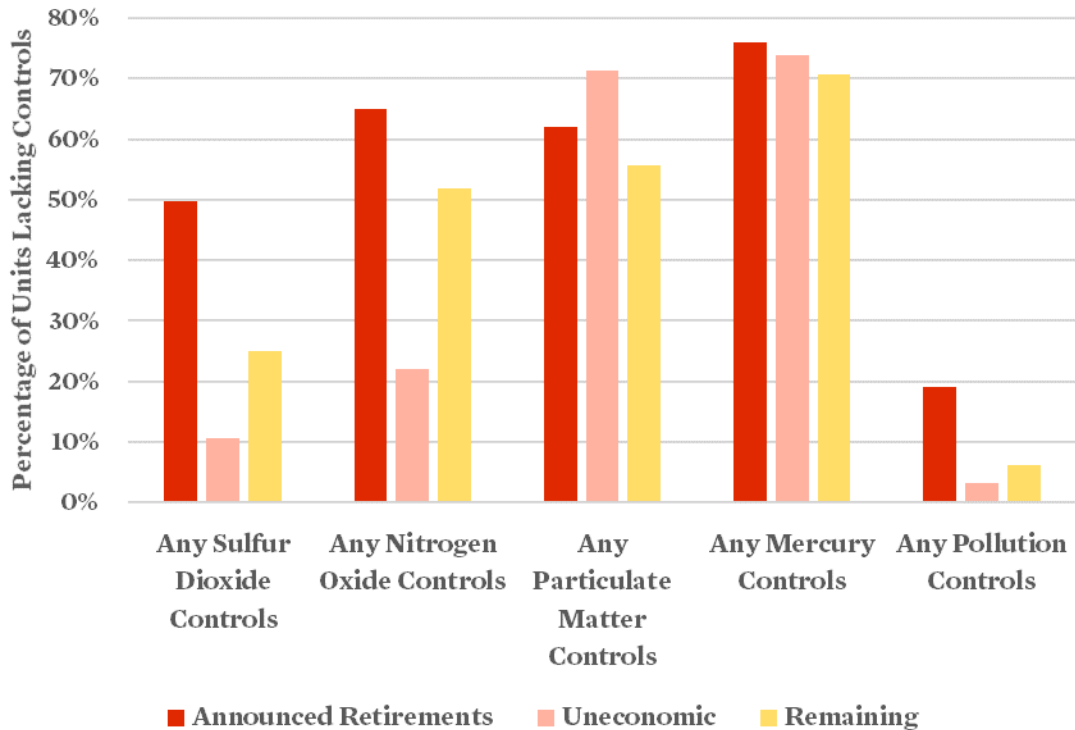
We also looked at missing pollution controls on each unit in the 2016 coal fleet. Figure A4 shows the percentage of units in each category (Announced, Uneconomic, and Remaining) that are missing pollution controls for each of four criteria pollutants: NO_x, SO₂, particulate matter, and mercury (Hg).⁸ Multiple controls are available for each of these pollutants, some performing better than others at reducing emissions. However, for purposes of this snapshot, we simply looked at whether any one of the available control technologies for each pollutant has been installed at a particular coal unit. The most common controls are wet flu gas desulfurization for SO₂, selective catalytic reduction for NO_x, baghouses for particulate matter, and activated carbon injection for mercury.

In all categories of pollutants other than particulate matter, a higher percentage of units already announced for retirement did not have controls installed, and nearly 20 percent of announced units had no controls installed for any of the pollutants, compared with 3 percent and 6 percent for uneconomic and remaining units respectively. However, comparison of uneconomic versus

⁷ For example, increase in delivered cost of fuel, the imposition of increasingly stringent environmental standards, or increased O&M costs as the coal fleet ages.

⁸ There are a variety of pollution controls that can be installed to reduce emissions of these pollutants. For our evaluation, we report whether a unit has any one of the various technologies that can be installed to reduce emissions of a pollutant. It should also be noted that some controls can be used individually or in combination to reduce emissions of multiple pollutants, thereby potentially eliminating the need for other control technologies to comply with current regulations.

FIGURE A4. Fraction of Units Missing Pollution Controls



Units already announced for retirement typically have a higher chance of lacking pollution controls installed for SO₂, NO_x, or mercury. However, as we look ahead, we find a higher percentage of units considered uneconomic compared to existing NGCC units lack pollution controls for particulate matter and mercury compared with our remaining units. Conversely, a higher percentage of remaining units lack controls for SO₂ and NO_x compared with uneconomic units.

SOURCES: SYNAPSE ENERGY ECONOMICS (2015); EPA (2015A).

remaining units varied depending on the pollution control: a higher percentage of uneconomic units lacked controls for particulate matter and mercury, while a higher percentage of remaining units lacked controls for SO₂ and NO_x.

Findings from Proximity Analysis

As described earlier, the units were aggregated according to current and future status and according to whether the surrounding community had a minority percentile or low-income percentile above the state's median value. These results are tabulated in Table A10 for the number of coal units, Table A11 for the total capacity in GW, and Table A12 for the total generation in gigawatt-hours (GWh). Following the methodology set out by the EPA in its Clean Power Plan EJSCREEN analysis (EPA 2015), units that are surrounded by fewer than 100 people living within a three-mile radius are ignored. This is why the totals in these tables will not match those shown in Table A1; for example, only 1,178 of the 1,256 coal units identified as operating in 2008 have at least 100 people living within three miles.

The percentages shown in Tables A10 through A12 are relative to the totals for each status category. Thus, for example, in Table A10, the 2016 operating coal fleet represented 248.7 GW of capacity, of which 31 percent (76.2 GW) were located in communities with a higher percentage of minority residents than the state median and 53 percent (131.1 GW) were located in

communities with a higher percentage of low-income residents than the state median. Note that these two groupings are not mutually exclusive; some coal plant communities fall above the state median in both categories, and some meet neither threshold.

We sought to test whether the disparities in the location of coal units in minority and low-income communities has been alleviated in the transition away from coal from 2008 to 2016 and whether there was any hint that it might change in the future as more coal units face early retirement. For this calculation, we followed the methodology developed by the EPA in its *EJ Screening Report for the Clean Power Plan* (EPA 2015). The statistical question was: How often do study area demographics exceed state median demographics? We evaluated this question using a two-sample t-test assuming unequal variances and compared the state percentile for each demographic from the 2008 coal unit fleet to those of the 2016 fleet. We detect no statistically significant change in the average percentile of the fraction of minority residents living within three miles of an operating coal unit from 2008 to 2016. We observe a barely statistically significant decrease in the average percentile of low-income residents during that time, but that apparent gain is erased when including the units that converted to another fuel over that time.

We conducted a similar test looking at the potential future based on units that face early retirement. For this test, we compared the state percentile for each demographic from the 2016 coal unit fleet to those of a potential future coal fleet: coal units that would be left after both announced retirements and conversions and after units uneconomic compared to existing NGCC go offline. For this potential future fleet of coal units, we include the units that were excluded from the economic stress test, making a conservative assumption that these units would remain online and continue to affect the communities where they are located. We find no statistically significant difference between the 2016 fleet and this potential future fleet in terms of either demographic variable.

Our results show that the fraction of coal units in low-income and minority areas has not changed significantly from 2008 to 2016 and is not anticipated to change significantly in the future based on our economic stress test calculation of which units face early retirement.

As described above, there are multiple ways to evaluate our results—in terms of number of units, total capacity, or total generation and in terms of how much of each are found in coal plant communities where one of the two demographics is above the state median. The analysis also looked at state-level breakdowns of these metrics. These comparisons are more challenging, mostly because some states have only a few coal generators, so the percentage of those units (or capacity or generation) located in low-income or minority communities is less statistically meaningful.

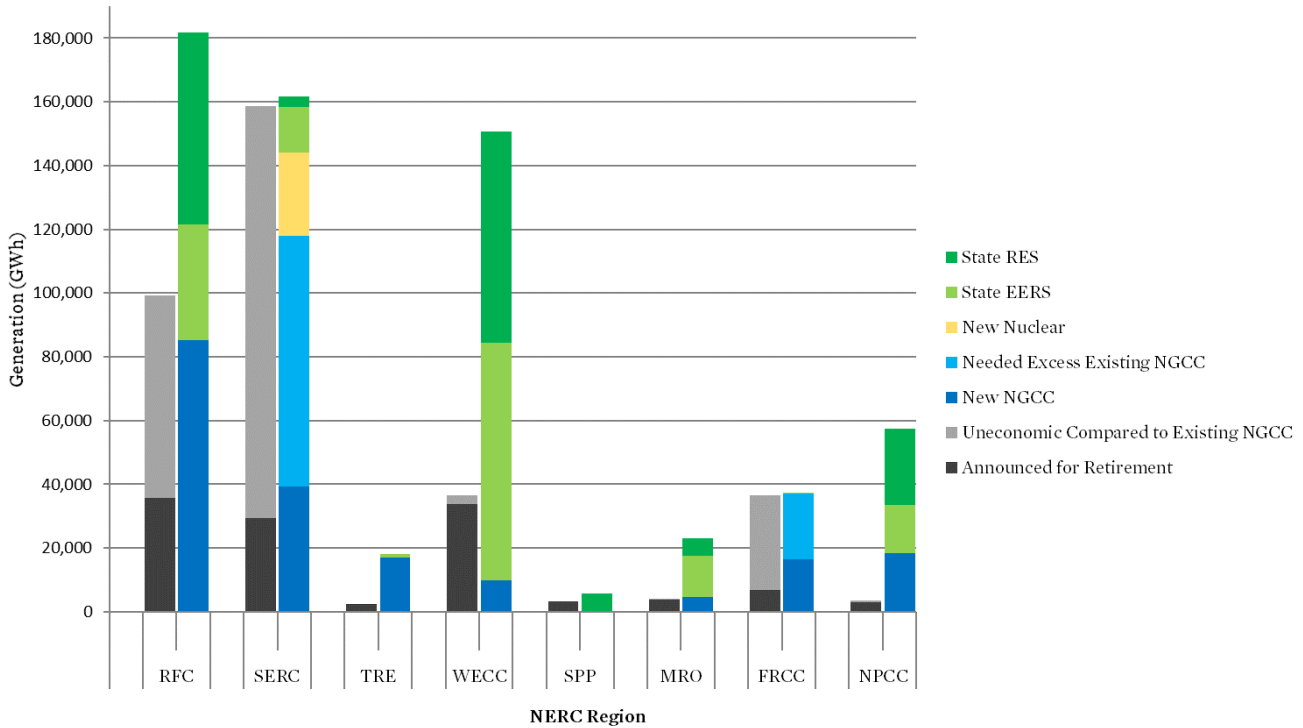
Table A13 shows one way of disaggregating the proximity analysis by state. The table shows the 2016 generation from coal units identified as operating at the end of 2016. It also shows explicitly how much of that generation is in areas with at least 100 residents living within three miles (the amount of coal generation "evaluated" using the proximity analysis), as well as the amount of coal generation that is uneconomic relative to existing NGCC and also in areas with at least 100 residents. The percentages in the rightmost four columns indicate the generation in communities with a percentage of minority and low-income residents, respectively, above the state median, relative to the coal generation that was evaluated with the proximity analysis. For states that have coal units located in less rural areas, the table indicates how much of the currently operating coal fleet is in minority and low-income communities and similarly how much of the generation found to be uneconomic compared to existing NGCC is in these communities.

Replacement Generation Potential

With such a large amount of coal generation potentially facing retirement, we sought to understand what resources could be expected to come online through 2025 to make up for any shortfall in meeting demand. Here we provide a cursory review of the generation resources that can reasonably be expected to come online in the near future. It is important to note that this is not a reliability analysis, nor does it take into account potential transmission or natural gas distribution constraints.

First, the potential lost coal generation is tabulated by NERC region; we sum 2016 generation from those generators that have announced they will retire through 2025 (but excluding those that plan to convert to natural gas or be replaced with new natural gas) combined with the generators identified as uneconomic compared to existing NGCC. See Tables A14 and A15 for a tabulation by region of 2016 coal unit capacity and generation, respectively. This potential lost generation is shown by the gray bars in Figure A5. The Southeast (SERC) as well as the Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes (RFC) regions stand out as having the most coal generation potentially going offline. To estimate the potential for replacement generation, we considered four additional sources of new generation expected to come online: state-mandated Renewable Electricity Standards (RESs), state-mandated Energy

FIGURE A5. Potential Loss in Coal Generation Compared to Anticipated Additional Generation

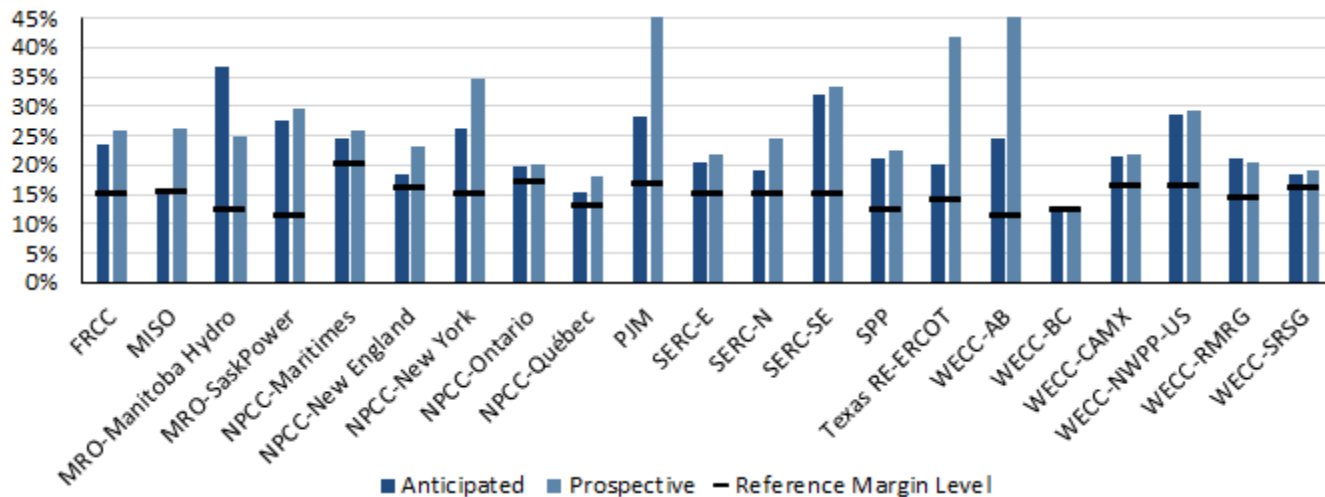


The potential loss in 2016 coal generation due to announced retirements (in black) and uneconomic units compared to existing NGCC (in gray) compared with an estimate of anticipated new generation by 2025 from RES (dark green), EERS (light green), nuclear (yellow), and new NGCC (dark blue). Also shown is additional existing NGCC generation (light blue) that could be tapped to meet shortfalls in SERC and FRCC (see text). Key to NERC regions: ReliabilityFirst Corporation (RFC); Southeast Reliability Corporation (SERC); Texas Reliability Entity (TRE); Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC); Southwest Power Pool (SPP); Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO); Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC); and Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC).

Efficiency Resource Standards (EERSs), under-construction nuclear power plants, and new NGCC builds. RES data comes from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's estimate of cumulative expected RES demand in 2025 (LBNL 2017). One limitation of this calculation is an imperfect match between states and NERC regions; a rough estimate was made to assign RES demand to NERC region. Avoided generation from state EERSs is based on UCS calculations of the additional avoided generation beyond what is captured in the *EIA Annual Energy Outlook* (EIA 2017a); these requirements are derived from the EPA's now archived database on state programs (EPA 2014). Nuclear generation is estimated for under-construction nuclear plants in Georgia and Tennessee; the potential contribution from the V.C. Summer plant in South Carolina is excluded following the August 2017 announcement that the project has been abandoned. New NGCC builds labeled as under construction or in advanced development (S&P Global 2017) are also included, and generation is estimated using the 2016 capacity factor for existing NGCC plants of 56 percent (EIA 2017b).

We found that in most regions of the country these sources of anticipated generation alone are sufficient to make up lost coal generation. It is also likely that this calculation underestimates the contribution from new renewable resources, in that it considers only state-mandated renewables and energy efficiency and not new investments that may be developed strictly on economic grounds. For example, Texas has installed significant and economically competitive wind resources far in excess of its

FIGURE A6. NERC Reliability Assessment



This chart shows anticipated reserve margin (dark blue), which is NERC’s primary metric used to evaluate projected resource adequacy to meet expected electricity load. The horizontal black lines indicate the reference margin level for each region; if anticipated resources fall below this line, it could indicate a risk to reliability. This is NERC’s assessment for 2021, reflecting NERC’s five-year assessment of available capacity margins.

This information from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation’s website is the property of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and is available at <http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2016%20Long-Term%20Reliability%20Assessment.pdf>.

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SOURCE: FIGURE 1.2 FROM NERC (2016).

RES. The SERC and Florida (FRCC) regions show large shortfalls, which is not an unexpected result given that nearly all coal units in the region did not meet the economic stress test (see Figure 3 in the accompanying fact sheet) and the region as a whole generally has weak or nonexistent policies to drive new investments in renewables and efficiency. However, as Figure A5 shows, both regions have sufficient excess existing natural gas generation to make up for the potential shortfalls (light blue portions of bars). FRCC would require a slight increase in the capacity factor of existing NGCC units (from 58 percent to 59 percent), while SERC’s shortfall would imply a 17 percent increase (to 72 percent), implying that the region is at risk for an over-reliance on natural gas (Deyette 2015).

NERC’s most recent Long-Term Reliability Assessment confirms that coal and other planned power plant retirements do not pose a threat to reliability⁹ (NERC 2016). NERC projects that all regions of the country will have more than enough power plant capacity to greatly exceed their targeted reserve margins through at least 2021 (see Figure A6). In particular, NERC shows significant excess capacity in SERC, FRCC, and RFC (shown as PJM for PJM Interconnection)—the regions where our analysis finds the vast majority of uneconomic coal units compared to existing natural gas. NERC also estimates significant excess capacity in these regions and most other regions through 2026.

⁹ NERC’s estimate of anticipated resources includes new capacity additions that have completed or are under construction, have a power purchase agreement or contract, are included in utility integrated resource plans, or are under a regulatory environment that have resource adequacy requirements. NERC’s estimate of prospective resources includes capacity that has been requested but that has not received approval for planning requirements.

Data Tables

TABLE A1. Summary of Current and Future Status of 2008 and 2016 Coal Fleets

Coal Unit Category	Number of Units		Capacity (GW)		Generation (GWh) ¹	
	Number	% of Total	Capacity	% of Total	Generation	% of Total
Current Status (in 2016) of 2008 Coal Units						
Operating	706	56%	284.1	80%	1,646,917	83%
Retired	452	36%	59.3	17%	274,891	14%
Converted	98	8%	13.4	4%	68,126	3%
TOTAL	1256		356.7		1,989,935	
Future Status of 2016 Operating Coal Units						
Announced for Retirement	128	18%	38.1	13%	118,244	10%
Known or Possible Conversions	35	5%	12.8	5%	44,113	4%
Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	122	17%	57.2	20%	225,768	19%
Remaining Economic Units	337	48%	171.8	60%	823,111	68%
Excluded from Economic Stress Test	84	12%	4.2	1%	5,029	0.4%
TOTAL	706		284.1		1,216,265	

Each unit in the 2008 coal fleet is assigned a current status (as of the end of 2016) of Operating, Retired, or Converted. For the 2016 Operating coal fleet, we assign a potential future status as Announced for Retirement, Known or Possible Conversions, Uneconomic compared to existing natural gas units (i.e., Ripe for Retirement), Remaining Economic Units (i.e., those that pass the economic stress test), or Excluded from the Economic Stress Test (i.e., insufficient data to compare costs).

¹ This table provides 2008 generation values for the upper section on the Current Status of the 2008 fleet, and 2016 generation values for the lower section on the Future Status of the current fleet. Totals may not add due to rounding.

SOURCE: BASED ON DATA FROM S&P GLOBAL (2017).

TABLE A2. Coal Unit Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Cost Assumptions

	Unit Capacity (MW)		
	<100	100–300	>300
Fixed O&M (2016\$/kW-yr)	33.05	23.14	19.83
Variable O&M (2016\$/MWh)	5.51	4.41	4.13

SOURCES: FISHER & BIEWALD (2011); NERC (2010).

TABLE A3. Alternative Resources Cost and Performance Assumptions

	Existing NGCC	New NGCC	Wind	Solar
Overnight Capital Costs (\$2016/kW)	0	1031	1741	1827
Fixed Charge Rate	0	11%	10%	10%
Fixed O&M (\$/kw-yr)	14.20	14.20	51.71	15.92
Variable O&M (¢/kWh)	0.30	0.30	0	0
Heat Rate (Btu/kWh)	7655	6660	N/A	N/A
Natural Gas Prices to Electric Generators (\$/MMBtu)	\$3.02	\$3.02	0	0
Fuel Escalation Rates (20-yr)	3.0%	3.0%	N/A	N/A
Fuel Levelizing Factors	1.29	1.29	N/A	N/A
Levelized Fuel Costs (¢/kWh)	2.98	2.59	N/A	N/A
2016 tax credits	N/A	N/A	discount of \$17.80/MWh	discount on capital costs of 30%
CO₂ Price @ \$10/ton (¢/kWh)	0.2032	0.1768	N/A	N/A
CO₂ Price @ \$25/ton (¢/kWh)	0.4063	0.3535	N/A	N/A
Low Natural Gas Price (\$/MMBtu; 2016\$)	2.93	2.93	N/A	N/A
Low Natural Gas Price Fuel Escalation Rate	1.5%	1.5%	N/A	N/A
Low Natural Gas Price Fuel Levelizing Factor	1.14	1.14	N/A	N/A
Low Natural Gas Price Levelized Fuel Cost (¢/kWh)	2.55	2.22	N/A	N/A
High Natural Gas Price (2016\$/MMBtu)	3.05	3.05	N/A	N/A
High Natural Gas Price Fuel Escalation Rate	5.6	5.6	N/A	N/A
High Natural Gas Price Fuel Levelizing Factor	1.65	1.65	N/A	N/A
High Natural Gas Price Levelized Fuel Cost (¢/kWh)	3.85	3.35	N/A	N/A
Levelization Period (years)	20	20	N/A	N/A
Assumed Real Discount Rate	7%	7%	N/A	N/A

Overview of assumptions used for costs and performance of alternative resources compared in the economic stress test. The columns show the four resources (existing NGCC, new NGCC, new wind, and new solar) that were compared separately to the 2016 coal fleet. Sunk capital costs on existing coal plants are not considered.

SOURCES: VARIOUS; UPDATED VALUES FROM FLEISHMAN ET AL. (2013) AND CLEETUS ET AL. (2012).

TABLE A4. Summary of Results in Different Scenarios for Economic Stress Test

Scenario	Existing NGCC	New NGCC	Wind	Utility Scale Solar PV
Reference Case Costs	57.2	2.2	9.3	2.2
High Natural Gas Price	27.4	0.1	9.3	2.2
Low Natural Gas Price	74.8	2.9	9.3	2.2
\$10/Ton CO₂ Price	91.7	5.7	40.3	2.8
\$25/Ton CO₂ Price	216.0	42.6	175.3	13.9

This table shows the amount of existing coal generating capacity in GW compared to each alternative resource (columns) and under each sensitivity test (rows). For example, in the case in which we assumed a CO₂ price of \$10/ton, 40.3 GW of coal capacity is uneconomic compared to wind.

Note: Individual coal units may be uneconomic compared to multiple resources, so numbers shown are not cumulative. In every case, total 2016 coal fleet evaluated by the economic stress test equals 622 units totaling 279.9 GW of capacity. Of that, 163 units totaling 50.9 GW of capacity are already slated for retirement or conversion by 2030. Of the 706 units identified as operating in 2016 in Table A1, 84 units totaling 4.2 GW of capacity were excluded from the economic stress test because of insufficient data.

TABLE A5. Characteristics of 2016 Operating Coal Fleet

	Announced Retirements and Conversions	Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	Remaining Units
Number of Coal Units	163	122	337
Total Capacity (GW)	50.9	57.2	171.8
% of Total US Retail Electricity Sales (2016)	4.4%	6.1%	22.1%
Average Generator Age (Years)	49	41	41
Average Generator Capacity Factor	35%	40%	58%
Average Generator Size (MW)	317	469	510

This table summarizes the characteristics of the units in the 2016 operating fleet that were analyzed using the economic stress test.

TABLE A6. Number of Coal Units by State and Status

State	Current Status			Future Status				
	Operating	Retired	Converted	Announced Retirement	Known or Possible Conversion	Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	Remaining Economic Units	Excluded from Stress Test
Alabama	13	17	11	0	0	9	4	0
Alaska	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Arizona	14	1	1	4	3	0	7	0
Arkansas	7	0	0	2	0	0	5	0
California	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	22	13	0	6	1	0	12	3
Connecticut	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Delaware	1	4	2	0	0	1	0	0
Florida	24	5	2	5	0	16	1	2
Georgia	16	15	2	0	0	15	0	1
Hawaii	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	34	22	6	3	0	1	28	2
Indiana	42	30	7	6	0	3	29	4
Iowa	18	20	8	2	4	1	9	2
Kansas	10	4	2	0	0	0	10	0
Kentucky	40	17	1	4	1	5	30	0
Louisiana	6	0	3	0	0	0	6	0
Maine	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Maryland	14	2	0	5	1	8	0	0
Massachusetts	3	6	0	3	0	0	0	0
Michigan	36	28	7	18	0	2	10	6
Minnesota	18	15	6	4	2	0	4	8
Mississippi	7	0	2	0	0	4	1	2
Missouri	36	10	5	10	2	0	20	4
Montana	7	1	1	2	0	0	2	3
Nebraska	17	0	0	3	3	0	10	1
Nevada	4	5	0	3	0	0	1	0

New Hampshire	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	1
New Jersey	6	3	0	4	0	1	1	0
New Mexico	7	4	0	2	0	0	5	0
New York	3	20	4	3	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	27	28	1	9	2	11	0	5
North Dakota	13	0	0	1	0	1	9	2
Ohio	39	50	1	11	5	0	16	7
Oklahoma	10	2	0	1	3	0	6	0
Oregon	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	29	27	7	0	0	0	16	13
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	12	17	4	0	0	12	0	0
South Dakota	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tennessee	23	10	0	7	0	2	14	0
Texas	41	2	0	2	0	0	39	0
Utah	9	5	0	0	3	0	5	1
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	18	14	7	2	2	13	0	1
Washington	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	19	18	0	0	0	12	6	1
Wisconsin	24	23	5	3	1	0	15	5
Wyoming	20	4	0	1	0	1	15	3

Future status is tabulated only for units that are listed as operating at the end of 2016.

SOURCE: BASED IN PART ON DATA FROM S&P GLOBAL (2017).

TABLE A7. Total Coal Capacity in GW by State and Status

State	Current Status			Future Status				
	Operating	Retired	Converted	Announced Retirement	Known or Possible Conversion	Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	Remaining Economic Units	Excluded from Stress Test
Alabama	6.7	3.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	3.8	2.8	0.0
Alaska	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Arizona	6.2	0.3	0.2	2.8	0.6	0.0	2.8	0.0
Arkansas	5.5	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0
California	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Colorado	5.5	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	4.3	0.0
Connecticut	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Delaware	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Florida	10.8	0.7	0.3	2.7	0.0	7.5	0.3	0.3
Georgia	10.1	3.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	10.1	0.0	0.0
Hawaii	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Idaho	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Illinois	12.9	4.3	1.7	1.9	0.0	0.0	10.9	0.1
Indiana	16.8	4.1	0.7	1.8	0.0	1.2	13.7	0.1
Iowa	5.6	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.0	4.9	0.1
Kansas	4.9	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0
Kentucky	15.0	2.8	0.3	1.9	0.1	1.1	11.9	0.0
Louisiana	3.9	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	0.0
Maine	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Maryland	5.1	0.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	3.6	0.0	0.0
Massachusetts	1.1	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Michigan	10.4	2.3	0.1	3.2	0.0	1.4	5.5	0.3
Minnesota	4.4	1.3	0.2	0.3	1.5	0.0	2.5	0.1
Mississippi	2.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.5	0.0
Missouri	12.5	0.4	0.3	1.5	0.4	0.0	10.4	0.2
Montana	2.5	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.2
Nebraska	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	3.3	0.1
Nevada	1.1	2.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0

New Hampshire	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.1
New Jersey	2.0	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0
New Mexico	3.7	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0
New York	1.0	2.4	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
North Carolina	11.6	3.0	0.0	1.8	1.5	7.9	0.0	0.3
North Dakota	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	3.9	0.1
Ohio	16.4	7.1	0.1	4.0	2.2	0.0	10.0	0.1
Oklahoma	4.7	1.1	0.0	0.5	1.7	0.0	2.5	0.0
Oregon	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pennsylvania	13.7	5.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	1.0
Rhode Island	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South Carolina	5.5	1.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0
South Dakota	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Tennessee	8.0	1.8	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.4	6.1	0.0
Texas	24.7	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	23.8	0.0
Utah	4.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	2.6	0.1
Vermont	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Virginia	4.0	1.9	0.9	0.4	0.1	3.4	0.0	0.1
Washington	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
West Virginia	13.1	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.6	5.4	0.1
Wisconsin	7.8	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.2
Wyoming	7.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.6	5.9	0.3

Future status is tabulated only for units that are listed as operating at the end of 2016.

SOURCE: BASED IN PART ON DATA FROM S&P GLOBAL (2017).

TABLE A8. Net Generation from Coal in 2008 and 2016 in GWh by State and Status

State	Current Status			Future Status				
	Operating	Retired	Converted	Announced Retirement	Known or Possible Conversion	Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	Remaining Economic Units	Excluded from Stress Test
Alabama	43,991	19,434	11,441	0	0	15,219	18,193	0
Alaska	398	0	0	0	0	0	0	192
Arizona	40,948	1,843	808	13,799	1,585	0	15,115	0
Arkansas	26,018	0	0	5,698	0	0	18,100	0
California	0	1,774	1,037	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	30,908	4,093	0	3,704	1,958	0	24,490	0
Connecticut	2,880	1,528	0	0	182	0	0	0
Delaware	2,319	1,628	1,398	0	0	477	0	0
Florida	60,400	4,378	2,089	6,875	0	32,290	1,895	1,485
Georgia	63,367	17,495	4,182	0	0	37,723	0	0
Hawaii	1,599	190	0	0	0	0	0	1,513
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	63,050	24,167	7,468	9,205	0	217	42,625	458
Indiana	100,917	17,851	3,379	5,064	0	1,619	62,855	0
Iowa	33,024	4,333	2,191	-4	1,442	14	21,971	28
Kansas	31,322	1,785	1,069	0	0	0	23,152	0
Kentucky	78,962	14,329	1,256	6,942	0	2,378	58,833	0
Louisiana	20,043	0	5,914	0	0	0	15,232	0
Maine	575	0	0	0	0	0	0	541
Maryland	26,792	468	0	2,040	27	11,965	0	0
Massachusetts	7,907	2,759	0	1,905	0	0	0	0
Michigan	58,805	10,375	513	8,975	0	6,503	23,168	1
Minnesota	25,621	4,809	725	906	6,541	0	14,486	114
Mississippi	11,634	0	5,100	0	0	2,460	2,900	0
Missouri	70,283	1,680	1,473	3,004	732	0	56,687	83
Montana	17,322	1,025	405	3,615	0	0	9,744	0
Nebraska	21,547	0	0	236	2,022	0	18,877	0
Nevada	5,946	1,879	0	1,289	0	0	891	0

New Hampshire	3,841	0	0	0	0	430	0	306
New Jersey	8,749	584	0	377	0	686	543	0
New Mexico	22,740	4,358	0	4,722	0	0	13,730	0
New York	7,385	7,864	3,801	1,194	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	63,873	11,793	17	2,702	3,682	30,807	0	0
North Dakota	29,592	0	0	1,074	0	229	24,831	0
Ohio	99,452	32,224	0	17,025	6,460	0	45,991	0
Oklahoma	28,873	7,154	0	1,989	6,110	0	9,890	0
Oregon	4,048	0	0	0	1,903	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	85,028	27,388	4,727	0	0	0	49,755	0
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	32,205	6,100	2,903	0	0	20,704	0	0
South Dakota	3,575	121	0	0	0	0	2,084	0
Tennessee	46,085	9,860	0	4,918	0	973	24,514	0
Texas	145,418	4,368	0	2,428	0	0	115,583	0
Utah	35,995	1,205	0	0	11,467	0	13,665	0
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	19,061	7,685	4,255	332	0	16,093	0	19
Washington	8,737	0	0	4,577	0	0	0	0
West Virginia	76,390	12,476	0	0	0	42,449	28,927	0
Wisconsin	35,988	3,527	1,976	1,469	0	0	31,548	289
Wyoming	43,306	361	0	2,183	0	2,532	32,836	0

For current status, generation is tabulated for 2008; for future status, the values are 2016 generation (both in GWh). Future status is tabulated only for units that are listed as operating at the end of 2016.

SOURCE: BASED IN PART ON DATA FROM S&P GLOBAL (2017).

TABLE A9. Assumptions for the Benefits of Avoided Emissions

	Reference Value	Year of Estimate	Value in 2015\$/metric ton
Benefits per Ton of SO₂ Emissions Reduced	\$35,000 (2010\$/ton)	2016	\$38,449 (2015\$/ton)
Benefits per Ton of NO_x Emissions Reduced	\$5,200 (2010\$/ton)	2016	\$5,712 (2015\$/ton)
Social Cost of Carbon	\$36 (2007\$/ton)	2015	\$41.57 (2015\$/ton)

SOURCES: INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP (2016); EPA (2013).

TABLE A10. Demographic Indicators by Number of Coal Units and Status

Number of Coal Units	Total Number of Units	Minority %ile Above State Median		Low Income %ile Above State Median	
		Number of Units	% in Each Category	Number of Units	% in Each Category
Current Status					
2008 Fleet	1,178	483	41%	734	62%
2016 Fleet	637	243	38%	369	58%
Retired	446	189	42%	296	66%
Converted	95	51	54%	69	73%
Future Status					
Announced for Retirement	116	45	39%	64	55%
Known or Possible Conversion	29	17	59%	18	62%
Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	116	46	40%	56	48%
Remaining Economic Units	294	89	30%	168	57%

This table includes only coal units with at least 100 people living within a three-mile radius, and the counts of total units will not line up with the values in Table A1.

TABLE A11. Demographic Indicators by Generating Capacity of Coal Units and Status

Capacity (GW)	Total Capacity (GW)	Minority %ile Above State Median		Low Income %ile Above State Median	
		Capacity (GW)	% in Each Category	Capacity (GW)	% in Each Category
Current Status					
2008 Fleet	320.4	103.5	32%	173.7	54%
2016 Fleet	248.7	76.2	31%	131.1	53%
Retired	58.7	21.5	37%	33.5	57%
Converted	13.0	5.7	44%	9.1	70%
Future Status					
Announced for Retirement	31.7	12.3	39%	16.8	53%
Known or Possible Conversion	9.6	3.9	41%	4.8	50%
Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	53.8	18.6	35%	23.8	44%
Remaining Economic Units	149.8	39.1	26%	83.1	55%

This table includes only coal units with at least 100 people living within a three-mile radius, and the total capacity in each category will not line up with the values in Table A1.

TABLE A12. Demographic Indicators by Generation and Status

Generation (GWh)	Total Generation (GWh)	Minority %ile Above State Median		Low Income %ile Above State Median	
		Generation (GWh)	% in Each Category	Generation (GWh)	% in Each Category
Current Status (2008 Generation)					
2008 Fleet	1,762,903	537,911	31%	942,572	53%
2016 Fleet	1,424,769	414,855	29%	753,342	53%
Retired	272,106	96,457	35%	144,928	53%
Converted	66,029	26,599	40%	44,302	67%
Future Status (2016 Generation)					
2016 Fleet	1,037,614	299,743	29%	533,714	51%
Announced for Retirement	93,138	33,237	36%	51,134	55%
Known or Possible Conversion	30,011	12,197	41%	14,760	49%
Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	211,058	72,513	34%	98,384	47%
Remaining Economic Units	699,864	180,529	26%	368,167	53%

This table includes only coal units with at least 100 people living within a three-mile radius, and the total generation in each category will not line up with the values in Table A1.

TABLE A13. State Breakout of Proximity Analysis Results

State	2016 Coal Generation (GWh) ¹	Evaluated 2016 Coal Generation (GWh) ²	Evaluated Uneconomic Coal Generation (GWh) ²	% of Operating Generation in Minority Areas ³	% of Uneconomic Generation in Minority Areas ⁴	% of Operating Generation in Low-Income Areas ³	% of Uneconomic Generation in Low-Income Areas ⁴
Alabama	33,412	29,054	10,861	5.1%	13.6%	37.4%	100.0%
Alaska	192	192	0	0.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
Arizona	30,499	4,386	0	55.5%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
Arkansas	23,797	23,797	0	35.1%	N/A	60.3%	N/A
California	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colorado	30,153	30,153	0	52.9%	N/A	64.4%	N/A
Connecticut	182	182	0	100.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
Delaware	477	477	477	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Florida	42,545	32,174	24,698	19.6%	22.9%	6.3%	5.6%
Georgia	37,723	37,723	37,723	0.0%	0.0%	45.6%	45.6%
Hawaii	1,513	1,513	0	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	N/A
Idaho	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois	52,505	52,505	217	13.5%	0.0%	68.5%	0.0%
Indiana	69,538	69,538	1,619	2.9%	0.0%	73.4%	89.9%
Iowa	23,451	23,451	14	46.9%	100.0%	5.1%	100.0%
Kansas	23,152	21,557	0	15.5%	N/A	87.3%	N/A
Kentucky	68,153	58,218	2,378	36.1%	0.0%	69.3%	27.1%
Louisiana	15,232	15,232	0	58.5%	N/A	85.5%	N/A
Maine	541	541	0	100.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
Maryland	14,032	14,032	11,965	0.0%	0.0%	43.4%	50.9%
Massachusetts	1,905	1,905	0	100.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
Michigan	38,647	38,647	6,503	40.3%	0.0%	51.9%	0.0%
Minnesota	22,047	22,047	0	12.3%	N/A	0.5%	N/A
Mississippi	5,359	5,359	2,460	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Missouri	60,506	52,654	0	24.8%	N/A	20.9%	N/A
Montana	13,359	13,359	0	100.0%	N/A	0.0%	N/A
Nebraska	21,136	4,266	0	87.9%	N/A	87.9%	N/A
Nevada	2,179	318	0	100.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A

New Hampshire	736	736	430	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
New Jersey	1,606	1,606	686	94.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
New Mexico	18,452	6,873	0	100.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
New York	1,194	1,194	0	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	N/A
North Carolina	37,191	37,191	30,807	60.3%	68.3%	15.3%	6.5%
North Dakota	26,134	2,448	0	0.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
Ohio	69,476	69,476	0	17.6%	N/A	74.5%	N/A
Oklahoma	17,990	17,990	0	66.8%	N/A	54.1%	N/A
Oregon	1,903	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pennsylvania	49,755	49,755	0	27.3%	N/A	94.1%	N/A
Rhode Island	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Carolina	20,704	20,704	20,704	85.5%	85.5%	58.5%	58.5%
South Dakota	2,084	2,084	0	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	N/A
Tennessee	30,406	30,406	973	53.9%	0.0%	70.9%	100.0%
Texas	118,011	97,254	0	0.0%	N/A	35.9%	N/A
Utah	25,132	8,161	0	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	N/A
Vermont	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Virginia	16,445	16,445	16,093	74.0%	75.5%	95.3%	97.2%
Washington	4,577	4,577	0	0.0%	N/A	100.0%	N/A
West Virginia	71,376	71,376	42,449	27.5%	30.3%	51.3%	67.9%
Wisconsin	33,306	33,306	0	65.6%	N/A	15.0%	N/A
Wyoming	37,551	12,751	0	21.9%	N/A	39.9%	N/A

This table shows the breakout by state of both operating coal generation and uneconomic coal generation (relative to existing NGCC) as well as the portions that are located in areas with at least 100 residents living within three miles. The percentages are relative to the total generation in each case that has been evaluated by the proximity analysis (meaning that there are at least 100 residents living within three miles). See text for more details.

¹ This column represents the total generation in 2016 for all coal units identified as operating at the end of 2016.

² This column represents only the portion of coal generation that came from units with at least 100 residents living within three miles, i.e., “evaluated” with the proximity analysis.

³ These percentages are relative to the evaluated 2016 coal generation and represent the portion of the operating coal fleet that is above the state median for percentage of minority or low-income residents.

⁴ These percentages are relative to evaluated 2016 coal generation that is uneconomic compared to existing natural gas, and represent the portion of the operating coal fleet that is above the state media for percentage of minority or low-income residents.

SOURCES: BASED ON DATA FROM S&P GLOBAL (2017), EPA (2016B).

TABLE A14. Total Coal Capacity in GW by Region and Status

Region	Current Status			Future Status				
	Operating	Retired	Converted	Announced Retirement	Known or Possible Conversion	Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	Remaining Economic Units	Excluded from Stress Test
RFC	86.9	26.0	4.8	12.4	2.3	14.6	56.0	1.6
SERC	86.1	19.5	5.7	9.5	1.7	35.0	39.4	0.5
TRE	20.1	0.2	-	0.9	-	-	19.2	-
WECC	33.1	4.5	0.4	7.9	3.8	0.6	20.3	0.6
SPP	21.6	2.2	0.5	1.1	2.1	-	18.4	0.2
MRO	23.0	3.3	1.0	1.5	2.5	0.1	18.3	0.6
FRCC	9.7	0.3	0.3	2.7	-	6.4	0.3	0.3
NPCC	3.2	3.2	0.6	2.1	0.4	0.6	-	0.2
HI	0.2	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.2
ASCC	0.1	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.1

Similar to data in Table A7, future status is tabulated only for units that were operating at the end of 2016.

Key to NERC regions: ReliabilityFirst Corporation (RFC); Southeast Reliability Corporation (SERC); Texas Reliability Entity (TRE); Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC); Southwest Power Pool (SPP); Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO); Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC); and Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC). Hawaii (HI) and Alaska Systems Coordinating Council (ASCC) are not NERC regions but are included for completeness.

TABLE A15. Net Generation from Coal in 2008 and 2016 in GWh by Region and Status

NERC Region	Current Status			Future Status				
	Operating	Retired	Converted	Announced Retirement	Known or Possible Conversion	Uneconomic Compared to Existing NGCC	Remaining Economic Units	Excluded from Stress Test
RFC	499,799	118,185	22,260	35,595	6,487	63,699	243,286	1
SERC	486,793	98,734	31,509	29,347	3,682	129,207	191,052	477
TRE	117,152	819	-	2,428	-	-	94,740	-
WECC	209,620	16,659	2,250	33,888	16,914	2,532	110,471	-
SPP	117,655	13,659	2,542	3,331	6,843	-	85,642	83
MRO	136,130	12,776	3,675	3,681	10,005	243	96,025	431
FRCC	55,184	1,718	2,089	6,875	-	29,657	1,895	1,485
NPCC	22,588	12,151	3,801	3,099	182	430	-	847
HI	1,599	190	-	-	-	-	-	1,513
ASCC	398	-	-	-	-	-	-	192

Similar to the data in Table A8, for current status, generation is tabulated for 2008; for future status, the values are 2016 generation (both in GWh). Future status is tabulated only for units that are listed as operating in 2016.

Key to NERC regions: ReliabilityFirst Corporation (RFC); Southeast Reliability Corporation (SERC); Texas Reliability Entity (TRE); Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC); Southwest Power Pool (SPP); Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO); Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC); and Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC). Hawaii (HI) and Alaska Systems Coordinating Council (ASCC) are not NERC regions but are included for completeness.

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