

Nuclear Energy in Louisiana

July 2007

Louisiana's Electricity Generation

Nuclear	18.4%
Coal	28.6%
Oil	0.3%
Gas	47.4%
Hydro	0.8%
Renewable and Other	4.6%

Source: EIA, 2006



Nuclear Power Plants in the State

	City	Capacity (MW)	2006 Generation (MWh)	2004-2006 3-year Average Capacity Factor (%)
River Bend	St. Francisville	966	7,465,534	89.3
Waterford 3	Taft	1,158	9,269,914	90.0
Total		2,124	16,735,448	89.6

Source: Energy Information Administration

Clean Air Benefits

Economic Growth and Emission-Free Electricity

Louisiana has experienced an average growth in Gross State Product of 1.0 percent per year over the past 5 years. To keep Louisiana's economy growing, the state will need new sources of power. At the same time, parts of Louisiana 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

All counties are in attainment for EPA's new 8-hour ozone standard. Ozone contributes to smog, which can lead to asthma attacks and respiratory impairment in young children and the elderly. Louisiana's nuclear power plants supply emission-free power to Baton Rouge and the rest of the state helping to improve the air quality.

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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 Louisiana avoided the emission of 26,400 tons of SO₂, 18,700 tons of NO_x and 13.2 million metric tons of CO₂ in the year 2006. (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 18,700 tons of NO_x prevented by the nuclear power plants in Louisiana is the amount of NO_x released in a

year by almost 1.0 million passenger cars. There are nearly 2 million cars registered in the state of Louisiana.

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 Louisiana's nuclear power plants could supply three percent more electricity and avoid annual emissions of 1,500 tons of SO₂, 400 tons of NO_x and 38,000 metric tons of CO₂.

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