

Nuclear Energy in Wisconsin

July 2007

Wisconsin's Electricity Generation

Nuclear	19.9%
Coal	66.1%
Oil	0.2%
Gas	9.1%
Hydro	2.4%
Renewable and Other	2.3%

Source: EIA, 2006



Nuclear Power Plants in the State

	City	Capacity (MW)	2006 Generation (MWh)	2004-2006 3-year Average Capacity Factor (%)
Kewaunee	Carlton Township	556	3,673,099	72.2
Point Beach 1	Two Creeks	512	4,465,634	87.1
Point Beach 2	Two Creeks	514	4,094,782	86.6
Total		1,582	12,233,515	82.0

Source: Energy Information Administration

Clean Air Benefits

Economic Growth and Emission-Free Electricity
Wisconsin has experienced an average growth in Gross State Product of 1.9 percent per year over the past 5 years. To keep Wisconsin's economy growing, the state will need new sources of power. At the same time, parts of Wisconsin 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. Wisconsin's nuclear power plants supply emission-free power to the Milwaukee area and help 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 Wisconsin avoided the emission of 41,400 tons of SO₂, 15,000 tons of NO_x and 12.4 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 15,000 tons of NO_x avoided by the nuclear power plants in Wisconsin is the amount of NO_x released in a

year by 785,000 passenger cars. There are 2.6 million cars registered in the state of Wisconsin.

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 Wisconsin's nuclear power plants could supply six percent more electricity and avoid annual emissions of 2,900 tons of SO₂, 400 tons of NO_x and 610,000 metric tons of CO₂.

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