Clinch River Unit 3 Decommissioning
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2014

Why is the Clinch River Unit 3 being retired?
The retirement is part of AEP’s plan for complying with the Mercury Air Toxics Standards for existing power plants that were approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in December 2011.

By early 2016, AEP will retire more than 6,000 megawatts (MW) of coal-fired generating capacity at 11 power plants in seven states. AEP’s Clinch River Unit 3, located near Carbo, Virginia in Russell County, is one of the generating units included in this retirement plan. The unit will officially be retired in mid-2015.

What happens after it’s retired?
AEP has developed formal plans to decommission Clinch River Unit 3 in a responsible manner that will safeguard the local environment, and assure the safety and security of the local community and our neighbors for years to come.

When we complete decommissioning, the facility will be retired-in-place pending future decisions on demolition and site redevelopment.

AEP and Clinch River Plant management will work with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and other state and federal organizations to ensure that Clinch River Unit 3 is decommissioned in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements.

What is happening to the other two units on the site?
Appalachian Power has received approval from Virginia and West Virginia regulators to convert a portion of the existing Clinch River Plant to operate with natural gas. Changing two of the three generating units from coal-fired to natural gas-fired is the least-cost alternative to meeting customers’ power needs, positively supports the local economy and reduces emissions.

The conversion is expected to cost about $65 million. The total project will cost substantially less than constructing a new combined-cycle natural gas plant or a combustion turbine peaking unit. The natural gas units are expected to be operational in 2016. When complete, the two units will have the capacity to generate 484 megawatts (MW) of electricity. Currently, the three existing units can generate 705 MW.

Won’t this impact the local community’s tax base?
Because of the conversion work, the retirement of Clinch River Unit 3 will only reduce annual real estate and personal property tax payments by $125,000. AEP and Clinch River management will work to provide information in a timely manner so that communities, businesses and organizations can prepare for these changes.
What happens to the Employees at the unit?
Clinch River Plant currently employs 58 full-time workers. It is AEP’s goal is to help employees who may be affected by the plant retirements through this transition. Whether they choose to retire, find other employment within the AEP system or to leave AEP, the company will provide resources and services to assist them.

How long has Clinch River been producing Power?
The first two units were placed in operation in 1958. Unit 3 entered service in 1961. The plant and its employees thank the leaders and citizens of Russell County for the opportunity to continue to live and grow with them.