

MINT FARM GENERATING STATION

Modern facility helps ensure reliable electric service

PSE

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

The Energy To Do Great Things

Puget Sound Energy strives to ensure reliable electric service at a reasonable cost by acquiring power supplies from a variety of different sources, both PSE-generated and purchased from other suppliers. These sources are primarily hydropower, wind power, natural gas-fired generation, and coal-fired power from Montana. This diversified-portfolio strategy minimizes risk – and costs – in the event an unforeseen circumstance (a drought, for example) causes regional shortages in one form of power and, in turn, drives up wholesale power prices. While hydroelectricity comprises the single largest share of PSE's total power-supply mix, electricity from natural gas-fired facilities also makes up a significant share – about one-fifth of PSE's total.

PSE today owns eight natural gas-fired plants, all in Washington state. The most recent addition to PSE's network of gas-fired power plants is the Mint Farm Generating Station, in Cowlitz County, Wash.

Power Output

The Mint Farm Generating Station can produce 310 megawatts of electricity when running at maximum capacity. That is enough power to meet the peak electricity demand of about 230,000 households.

Location

The plant is located in the Mint Farm Industrial Park of Longview, Wash., about 130 miles south of Seattle.

Facility Profile

The Mint Farm facility came online in January 2008, and was acquired by PSE in December 2008. The plant employs modern, "combustion-turbine, combined-cycle" technology that allows it to generate electricity using both a natural gas cycle and, from the exhaust heat of its power-generating turbine, a steam cycle. The two-stage process boosts operating efficiency, lowers fuel costs, and cuts air emissions. Combined-cycle plants like Mint Farm operate much more efficiently than single-cycle gas-fired plants. The latter typically run only to help meet daily or seasonal peaks in customers' power usage, while combined-cycle plants often operate to help meet utility customers' base power requirements. They also complement hydro and wind-powered generation because gas-fired plants can operate on a firm schedule while power generation from hydro and wind-generating facilities is dependent upon Mother Nature.

Personnel

Approximately 21 full-time PSE employees operate and maintain the Mint Farm Generating Station.



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