


Your FAQs Answered: New Orleans Power Station

What is the New Orleans Power Station?

The New Orleans Power Station is a proposed modern, efficient generating facility that will be located at Entergy's existing Michoud site in an industrial area on the eastern edge of Orleans Parish. We've presented two options for the New Orleans City Council's consideration – a 128-megawatt unit submitted in the July 2017 supplemental filing or a 226-megawatt unit submitted in the June 2016 original filing.

Why do we need it?

We need this power plant because without it New Orleans is at risk of cascading electrical outages or blackouts throughout the city. Having local peaking generation will provide grid stability for New Orleans and the region, support economic expansion and support the addition of more renewables. Additionally, building this plant in New Orleans will provide much-needed jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of economic benefits to the city.

The New Orleans Power Station will replace the 1960s-era Michoud units, which were deactivated on June 1, 2016 due to age and the increasing cost of maintenance. The new power station will have lower emissions, use minimal groundwater and will reduce the overall impact on the environment.

What do the two options entail?

Not only does the current application renew the request for approval of the 226-MW combustion turbine, but it also presents for council consideration a 128-MW unit composed of natural gas-fired reciprocating engines.

Combustion turbine

- 226 MW, natural gas-fired.
- Fast-start ability to reach full power within minutes.
- Larger reliable source of peaking and reserve capacity.
- Assist with grid stability and storm restoration by providing a local source of generation.
- Lower emissions.
- Minimal groundwater usage.

Also found in aviation, the CT is a unit capable of producing large amounts of power. Quite simply, a compressor drives air into the combustion chamber where a mixture of fuel and air reach very high temperatures. This, in turn, causes the turbine blades to rotate and generate energy.

Reciprocating engines

- 128 MW, natural gas-fired.
- Fast-start ability to reach full power within minutes.
- Smaller reliable source of peaking and reserve capacity.
- Assist with grid stability and storm restoration by providing a local source of generation.
- Lower emissions.
- Minimal groundwater usage.

Reciprocating engines are the same engines used extensively in cars and trucks, although on a larger scale for power generation. In addition, they include self-start capability, which enables the company to start the unit even when there is no power on the electric grid.

What about community concerns?

We take seriously our commitment to the city we serve and have worked to address community concerns, especially surrounding misinformation over environmental impacts. Not only have we held multiple community meetings, but we have kept customers informed along the way, and are holding additional community meetings.

Does the current schedule provide the Council enough time to make an informed decision?

Yes. This proceeding has been in progress since June 2016. Entergy has filed written expert testimony clearly demonstrating that there is an existing need for the plant to help ensure transmission grid stability. Over the last 16 months, Entergy has engaged hundreds of local customers in the discussion during more than 20 public meetings. The decision on the New Orleans Power Station should not be delayed.

Are you still planning to pursue renewable energy?

Yes. We have committed to pursuing up to 100 MW of renewable resources to add to our portfolio and believe that doing so in a responsible manner will benefit all of our customers. In May 2017, we selected three proposals from our renewables RFP totaling approximately 45 MW – over twice the original amount sought – and we're exploring available avenues for fulfilling the remainder of the 100 MW commitment.

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