



Walter M. Higgins Generating Station



Location: Primm, Nevada

Peak Generating Capacity: 530 Megawatts

Plant Description: The Walter M. Higgins Generating Station is a clean-burning natural gas-fueled power plant located in Southern Nevada near the California border. The plant utilizes two highly efficient Westinghouse 501FD combustion turbines to produce electricity. Additionally, the exhaust from the two turbines is recycled to produce steam for an Alstom STF30C steam turbine to make additional electricity for NV Energy customers.

The plant went into service in 2004. Unlike conventional power plants that use substantial amounts of water for cooling, the Higgins Station uses a six-story-high dry cooling system. Similar to a car radiator, 40 massive fans (34 feet in diameter) are used to condense the steam and cool plant equipment.

Employment: Approximately 17 employees

Interesting Features:

- The plant can produce enough electricity to serve approximately 320,000 Nevada households.
- In addition to the dry cooling system, the Higgins Station also saves water by re-using "grey water" from three neighboring casino operations. Grey water refers to water from sinks, showers, tubs, washing machines, etc.

- The Higgins Station has performed in the top 10 percent for combined-cycle plants in the United States, based primarily on its high customer availability rate of 99 percent.
- NV Energy annually provides approximately \$34 million in tax revenue to Clark County that benefits general county operations, schools, libraries, and other civic activities.

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