



The Enduring Power of Lignite

Keeping the lights on with coal

Coal is the nation's most abundant energy resource. It may surprise many to learn that coal supplies about 30 percent of the power to Texas and the country. In addition to having power when we need it, we pay less for our electricity costs. In fact, 30 percent lower in states that rely upon coal for more than half of their electricity generation, versus states that rely on other fuels.



Lower electricity costs



Reliable source of energy



Advanced environmental controls

Texas fueled by lignite coal

Texas is blessed with abundant resources, including lignite, a brownish-black coal with generally high moisture and ash content and lower heating value. It is more accessible than other types of coal because lignite veins are located relatively near the surface, eliminating the risk of methane or carbon monoxide buildup.

Texas is first in the nation in lignite production and consumption, with lignite accounting for more than two-fifths of the coal consumed in Texas. About 40 percent of the coal-fired power plants in Texas burn lignite to generate the electricity that powers our homes and businesses.

San Miguel Electric Cooperative operates a lignite-fired power plant that provides a reliable source of power to hundreds of thousands of South Texans in 42 counties.

San Miguel Electric Cooperative is committed to maintaining a dependable power supply at the lowest possible and competitive cost to our customers, through integrity, hard work and safety.

1st

Texas leads U.S. lignite production

40%

of Texas coal-fired power plants burn lignite

42

Texas counties served by San Miguel



COAL SUPPLIES ABOUT
30% OF THE POWER
TO TEXAS AND THE COUNTRY



SAN MIGUEL HAS SPENT MORE THAN
\$125 MILLION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS



MORE THAN
20 MAJOR STATE & FEDERAL LAWS
REGULATE TEXAS COAL & MINERAL MINING



SAN MIGUEL POWER PLANT OPERATES
365 DAYS A YEAR

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Lignite is safe, steady and reliable

Lignite-fired power plants provide a constant, cost-effective source of reliable power. When needed, these plants can quickly generate and move power to Texas' electricity grid to meet demand. Unlike other sources of power, such as wind farms or solar cells, lignite-generated electricity does not rely on the fluctuations of Mother Nature to power Texas. Winds do not often blow at night, nor does the sun shine, but lignite coal is abundant and readily available to meet spikes in energy demand.

Environmental controls protect the public

More than 20 major state and federal laws regulate Texas coal and mineral mining operations. These laws and regulations require close monitoring of lignite mining and power generation activities in Texas to ensure they operate in a way that minimizes environmental impacts.

According to the National Energy Technology Laboratory and the World Coal Institute, regulated emissions from coal-based electricity generation have decreased overall by more than 40 percent since the 1970s, while coal use has tripled.

San Miguel Electric Cooperative has spent more than \$125 million on environmental controls since its power plant opened in 1982. The San Miguel power plant captures 96 percent of the particulates released by power generation. Its operations regularly meet and exceed many state and federal regulations, with its reclaimed lands earning recognition by state and local agencies.

Across the U.S., lignite-fired power plants have invested about \$2 billion in state-of-the-art technology to keep the air clean. This investment accounts for 20 to 30 percent of the cost of the typical lignite-fired power plant.

Providing power year-round

Lignite-generated electricity is abundant, low-cost, reliable and environmentally compatible. The San Miguel power plant operates 365 days a year, providing an uninterrupted source of power to hundreds of thousands of people in rural South Texas – thanks to the enduring power of lignite.

Sources:

- Lignite Energy Council-<https://lignite.com>
- National Mining Association-<https://nma.org>
- Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute-<http://www.rmcmi.org>
- Texas Mining & Reclamation Association-<https://www.tmra.com>
- Texas Public Policy Foundation-<https://lifepowered.org>
- Texas State Historical Association-<https://tshaonline.org>

About Us

San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a member-owned mining and power generation cooperative that serves the people of Texas' rural communities, working and living in partnership with its members. Through integrity, hard work and a commitment to safety, San Miguel maintains a dependable power supply at the lowest possible and competitive cost.

