

Mountainview, a Customer Win, Win, Win, Win

Southern California Edison's (SCE's) Mountainview power plant, built in 2006, was the utility's first new power plant in more than 20 years and the largest generating facility in one of the fastest growing regions in the nation – Southern California's Inland Empire. This natural-gas fired plant, which can produce 1,054 megawatts of electricity or enough to power 685,000 average homes, is a major win for SCE customers.

Customer Win #1 – More Power At the Right Time

State agencies such as the California Energy Commission and the California Independent System Operator have expressed concern about whether Southern California will have adequate power supplies in coming years because of inadequate new plant construction. That's why those who worked on SCE's acquisition of Mountainview believed the new SCE plant was needed to help ensure future service reliability for utility customers.

Customer Win #2 – More Power At the Right Price

SCE purchased and completed building the abandoned Mountainview power plant at lower costs to customers than starting a major project of this type from scratch, a savings that is passed through to utility customers.

Mountainview power is provided to SCE customers at stable, cost-based rates rather than at market prices. That means when wholesale power costs rise above utility operating costs, customers pocket the savings. Additionally, Mountainview is one of the most efficient "combined cycle" plants in operation. The six Mountainview turbines are producing a kilowatt of electricity with 30 percent to 40 percent less natural gas than older plants.

Cycle One – In Mountainview's four combustion turbines, air is mixed with natural gas and ignited, increasing the temperature, velocity, and volume of the gases moving through the unit. This gas flow is then directed through nozzles and across turbine blades, spinning them and generating electricity. In single-cycle plants, heat from this process is then vented up the plant's exhaust stack.



Cycle Two – Mountainview's combined-cycle design directs this heat from cycle one through a boiler where it produces steam that turns steam turbines, generating "bonus" electricity from the same amount of natural gas.

Two GE F-Class gas turbines are combined with one steam turbine forming a three turbine "train" capable of generating 527 megawatts of power. The plant has two such trains and a total generating capacity of 1,054 megawatts.

Mountainview is one of the most efficient natural gas plants in the west. The six Mountainview turbines can produce a kilowatt of electricity using less than 7,000 Btu of fuel, compared to older plants which require 10,000 Btu or more. The savings – more power from less fuel – go into the pockets of SCE customers through lower power production costs.



Customer Win #3 – More Power In the Right Place

The Inland Empire is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Electricity consumption in San Bernardino and Riverside counties is growing at twice the rate SCE is seeing in the remaining nine counties it serves. This dynamic growth is being driven by two factors – the large number of new homes and businesses being built in the region and the fact that these are among the warmest counties SCE serves, thus there is an increased need for air conditioning.

Customer Win #4 – More of the Right Type of Power

Because Mountainview uses natural gas and state-of-the-art emissions control systems, it is one of the cleanest power plants in the West.