

Just the 'Coal' Hard Facts

- Coal lies beneath approximately 65% of Illinois.
- According to the Illinois State Geological Survey, there is more than 100 billion tons of recoverable coal in Illinois.
- Illinois has almost 25% and the largest percentage of bituminous coal reserves in the United States.
- At the present rate of consumption, Illinois has enough coal supply to meet the coal demand of the United States for the next 100 years.
- Coal accounts for 47.1% of the electricity generated in Illinois.
- Coal generated electricity is one-half the cost of natural gas generated electricity and one-fourth the cost of wind generated electricity.
- The Illinois coal industry is responsible for approximately 3,500 Illinois jobs and another 12,000 jobs are dependent on the Illinois coal industry including transportation and generation plants.
- The Illinois coal industry provides nearly \$1 billion to the Illinois economy each year.
- 80% of the coal mined in Illinois is shipped to other states.
- Approximately 2 million tons of Illinois coal is shipped to other countries annually.
- Since 1970, the use of coal to generate electricity in the U.S. has tripled to keep up with the U.S. growing demand for electricity.
- The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that U.S. need for electricity will increase an additional 30% by 2030.
- The 1600 megawatt Prairie State coal-fired power plant meets or exceeds 2018 EPA standards, cleared twenty-seven environmentalist concerns and will start generating electricity the end of 2011.
- Prairie State sulfur dioxide emissions will be 98% less; nitrogen oxide will be 86% less; particulate matter will be 99.8% less and carbon dioxide will be 15% less than coal-fired power plants operating in the 1970s.
- The Prairie State power plant will provide approximately two-thirds of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative's member base load.

To be continued...

These "coal" hard facts were brought to you by the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Coal Association, Prairie Power, Inc. and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy cooperative and your connection to energy wise living.



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