Chehalis Generation Facility

PacifiCorp purchased the efficient, 520-megawatt Chehalis Generating Facility in 2008. Located near the western Washington city for which it is named, the plant was built in 2003 and was originally operated by TNA Merchant Projects Inc., a subsidiary of SUEZ Energy North America Inc.

The Chehalis facility uses natural gas to heat water that creates steam that turns its turbines. Then heat recovery boilers take the exhaust heat from the gas turbines and convert it to steam, which goes through conventional turbines to generate more electricity. Called combined cycle combustion, this technology creates an additional 20 percent efficiency compared to simple cycle combustion.

The two units at Chehalis are capable of producing enough electricity to power more than 390,000 average homes.

Our decision to purchase the Chehalis facility was based on:

- Its cost effectiveness for our customers
- The ability to help fill our identified need to obtain more generation to meet load growth
- Our expectation that natural gas will continue to play a significant role in our resource portfolio

A significant benefit of combined cycle combustion turbines is their ability to go into operation quickly when customer needs increase sharply or other resources dip.

That allows us to balance our valuable — but more intermittent — renewable generation assets that we have incorporated into our portfolio, namely wind and solar.

Also of benefit to the environment is the fact natural gas burns 40 to 50 percent cleaner than coal, so it produces less carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour generated.

In addition to meeting the expectations of our customers and fulfilling our role as an environmental steward, PacifiCorp demonstrates our commitment to the communities in which we operate. We hired all 15 of TNA’s Chehalis employees when we purchased the plant and we enjoy being an active, responsible community citizen.

PacifiCorp is one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, providing approximately 1.7 million customers in the West with reliable, efficient energy. PacifiCorp operates as Pacific Power in Oregon, Washington and California, and as Rocky Mountain Power in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho. PacifiCorp’s electric generation, commercial and energy trading, and mining functions are operated as PacifiCorp Energy.