Jim Bridger Plant is named for John “Jim” Bridger, perhaps the West’s leading 19th century mountain man, scout, trapper and guide. It was commissioned in 1974 on a 1,000-acre site 30 miles northeast of Rock Springs, Wyo. We added three more units during the following five years.

Generating capability is 2,120 megawatts. As operator and co-owner, 1,411 MW of that output is ours and the remainder goes to co-owner Idaho Power.

All four units are equipped with electrostatic precipitators to control particulate emissions and wet scrubbers using soda ash waste to control sulfur-dioxide emissions. Scrubbers at all units have been upgraded since 2007 to scrub nearly 90 percent of sulfur dioxide emission from the plant stacks.

We burn between 8 million and 9 million tons of sub-bituminous coal per year at the plant. About two thirds of the coal is supplied by Jim Bridger Mine – which we also own and operate – and is delivered via a 2.4-mile belt conveyor. The remainder comes from other Wyoming mines via rail.

That coal is burned by a boiler 20 stories tall to produce steam that is 2,400 pounds of pressure per square inch at nearly 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Pipes carry that steam to the turbine to turn its blades to engage the generator to produce electricity.

The spent steam is sent to the condenser, where cool water inside miles of tubes transforms the steam back into water.
That water is returned to the boiler to again be heated into steam to repeat the cycle. Excess heat is sent to large cooling towers where the heat is transferred to the atmosphere, creating white plumes often seen rising above the plant.

Power generated by Bridger Plant begins its journey to our customers via high-voltage transmission lines – two owned by PacifiCorp and one owned by Idaho Power – to substations near Pocatello and American Falls, Idaho; and near Point of Rocks and Airfoil, Wyo.

Water for plant operations is conveyed by a pipeline from the Green River, 54 miles west of the plant.

**Underground effort extends mine’s life**

Between 1974 and 2003, the surface operations at Jim Bridger Mine provided about 170 million tons of coal to the plant. That’s when PacifiCorp initiated changes designed to extend the life of the mine. An underground mine was constructed in a sustained effort to continue to provide fuel to the plant for an additional 20 years. We use underground longwall mining methods in a coal seam which has as much as 1,000 feet of overburden.

Today the underground operation produces between 4 million and 4.5 million tons of coal per year while the surface mine continues to supply another 1 million to 1.5 million tons annually.

**Recreation opportunities**

Generating recreation opportunities with the same resources we use to generate power is an additional way PacifiCorp provides for the community.

Jim Bridger Park provides picnic tables, restrooms and a swimming beach, boat ramp and two fishing docks. For day use only, the park is open to the public year-round.

Visit pacificorp.com/recreation for details about the recreation amenities – and any fees – at our recreation areas.

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 Rocky Mountain Power in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho, and as Pacific Power in Oregon, Washington and California. PacifiCorp’s electric generation, commercial and energy trading, and mining functions are operated as PacifiCorp Energy.

We are serious about our commitment to the communities in which we do business. So are our 351 Jim Bridger Plant employees. They are active in their communities and – as a group – contribute to the health of those communities through local initiatives and through our Community Giving Campaign, which includes the United Way and other human services organizations.