Carbon plant was retired April 15, 2015 after 60 years and 5 months of service. When Unit 1 was completed in 1954 it was the utility’s first investment in a large power plant near the fuel source, utilizing bulk transmission to move electricity hundreds of miles to where customers needed it. Unit 2 was completed in 1957.

Carbon plant provided high-paying secure jobs in Central Utah communities for three generations of residents. Over the years, 699 people worked at the plant, with scores of others finding employment locally in support industries. The availability of high-quality low-sulfur coal in the region prompted the company to construct two other power plants in the area, Huntington in 1974 and Hunter in 1978, which continue to operate today.

While increasingly restrictive air quality regulations were a key factor in the decision to retire the plant, Carbon was nearing the end of its service life. As well, the plant’s location in a narrow canyon setting with limited room, made it impractical to construct the kinds of additional emission controls that have been employed at the company’s other coal plants. Ultimately, the decision to retire Carbon was in the best interests of customers.

Dismantling of the plant, together with a program to restore the site to an essentially natural condition will continue into mid-2017. PacifiCorp selected a contractor for the project, National Service & Salvage Corporation, after competitive bidding. Some equipment and parts at Carbon were deployed for use by other plants. Much of the metals used in Carbon plant’s structures can be recycled. All wastes and other materials from plant operations will be completely removed from the site and disposed of in compliance with applicable environmental regulations.

PacifiCorp has an excellent record of environmental stewardship for projects of this kind, having retired several coal-fueled and hydroelectric power plants in its long history. The company also has been recognized for its expertise in reclamation projects by both state and federal environmental regulators.