

Circulating Fluidized-Bed (CFB) Technology

The solid-fuel unit will use CFB Technology to produce approximately 600 megawatts of electricity. The unit will consist of two CFB boilers.

CFB Technology was developed under the United States Department of Energy's Clean-Coal Technology (CCT) program. The CCT program is part of DOE's mission to foster a secure and reliable energy system that is environmentally and economically sustainable. The program seeks to demonstrate and deploy advanced technologies that meet strict environmental standards. It is managed by the National Energy Technology Laboratory, the largest fossil energy research organization in the United States.

The technology is a combustion process used to generate steam for industrial processes and the generation of electricity. It evolved from efforts to find a technology capable of using a wide range of fuels with low operating and maintenance costs.

Fuel flexibility is one of the built-in advantages of CFB Technology, as fuel is a major operating expense in the electrical generating process. The extreme price fluctuations in the natural gas market have led electricity providers to consider alternative fuel sources that are reliable and affordable.

CFB boilers can utilize a variety of low-cost solid fuels and fuel blends and meet or surpass all federal and state environmental laws and regulatory permit requirements. Typical fuels include coal, lignite, petroleum coke (petcoke), a byproduct of the oil-refining process, and other solid materials. Cleco has chosen petcoke as its primary fuel choice for the proposed new unit.

Sources:
U.S. Department of Energy and the National Energy Technology Laboratory

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