

Summary

Alternative Energy Source: Solar power

Stakeholder: Fossil fuel representative

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My name is Vicki Sandler and I am president of APS Energy Services Company (APS) in Arizona. We use natural gas for fuel at the West Phoenix Power Plant, which generates about 1,000 megawatts of electricity and provides power to all the residents of Phoenix. This natural gas-fueled power plant has seven generating units - two combustion turbine units and five units that employ combined-cycle technology. In a combined cycle power plant, a gas turbine generator first generates electricity directly. It also produces heat which might be lost to the environment. However, this technology allows us to use that waste heat to make steam to generate additional electricity via a steam turbine. Most new gas power plants in North America and Europe are of this type. Combined cycle plants are usually powered by natural gas, although fuel oil, synthetic gas or other fuels can be used. Our company is presently looking into solar technology as a means of providing Phoenix residents with power; however, we have found that many residents oppose this because of the costs that they will incur by putting solar panels into their homes. The combined cycle plants remain the safest, cleanest, and cheapest way of providing electricity to the residents in the Phoenix.