

Cleaning the Air

Updated facts on the installation of scrubbers and baghouses at the Brandon Shores Power Plant

Constellation Energy is committed to meeting customers' energy needs while minimizing the impact our business has on the environment. With the passage of Maryland's Healthy Air Act in 2006, Constellation is taking another step toward meeting that commitment. We are adding Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) devices, also known as 'scrubbers,' at our Brandon Shores plant in Pasadena, MD, as well as baghouses. When completed, these upgrades will remove at least 95 percent of existing sulfur dioxide emissions and 90 percent of existing mercury emissions from the plant, making Brandon Shores one of the cleanest coal-burning power plants of its kind in the country.

The scrubbers and baghouse project began in 2007 and will take approximately three years to complete. Both the construction and eventual operation will mean residents living near the plant will see some changes. As a member of the local community we want you to know and understand what this project is, what it will mean to you, and to Maryland's environment.

Why now?

In early 2006 Maryland's Healthy Air Act was signed into law. The new law requires Maryland coal-burning power plan to significantly reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, mercury, nitrogen oxide, and carbon dioxide by 2015. Constellation had already planned to install scrubbers at Brandon Shores prior to passage of the law

How does a scrubber work?

As coal is burned in a power plant, it emits gases through the flue, or stack. Scrubbers work by passing the flue gas through a tower in which a water and limestone mixture is sprayed. The sulfur dioxide in the flue gas reacts with the limestone to produce gypsum, a useful additive to concrete or for the production of wallboard. The remaining water vapor rises from the stack.

How is the project proceeding?

As of Sept. 1, 2009 the scrubber project was more than 92 percent completed. Scrubbers are scheduled to be in service by early 2010.



Partially completed new scrubber project chimney stack at the Brandon Shores power plant.

What about increased traffic?

A slight increase in traffic was projected because of added workers needed for the scrubber construction project. However, Constellation has taken a number of steps to ensure local traffic will not be affected, including adding an alternate contractor entrance to the plant.

Will the old stacks be taken down?

No, the existing emission stacks will remain in place. The new stack, which will emit water vapor, is nearly completed.

What else are you doing to improve air quality in Maryland?

The scrubber project is only one of several steps we've taken to improve emissions at our Maryland power plants. Constellation Energy has invested about \$250 million in emission-reducing equipment and upgrades in Maryland over the last eight years. Investments include projects such as Selective Catalytic Reduction at both Brandon Shores and the H.A. Wagner plants in Pasadena to reduce nitrogen oxide, technology to capture coal combustion by-products at the HA. Wagner plant, and efforts to burn low sulfur coal at all three Constellation Energy Baltimore-area plants.

Questions?

If you have questions about this project, please contact Bonnie Johansen of Constellation Energy at (410) 787-6519 (work), (410) 599-8010 (cell) or e-mail Bonnie.L.Johansen@constellation.com