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# Louisiana Energy Topics

Department of Natural Resources

Technology Assessment Division

A Supplement to LOUISIANA ENERGY FACTS on Subjects of Special Interest

## Updated Non-Utility Generation Report Available Now

In 1997, Louisiana electric utilities purchased over 643 million kilowatt hours (KWH) from non utility generators (NUGs). This power came from NUGs operated in both Louisiana and Texas and was the highest volume purchased since 1987. The quantity purchased was up over 39% from 1996, but the average price per KWH rose 9% for the same period.

The number of generators operated by Louisiana electric utilities remained unchanged at 109 units from 1995 through 1997, although nameplate capacity increased slightly from 17,019 megawatts (MW) to 17,185 MW. Annual generation varied from 65,555 million KWH in 1995 (44% of capacity) to 58,643 million KWH in 1996 (39% of capacity) to 61,120 million KWH in 1997 (41% of capacity).

Over this same period, non utility generators (which includes industrial cogenerators) sold a total of 429.5 million KWH in 1995, 461.7 million KWH in 1996, and 643.1 million KWH in 1997, exclusive of hydropower, to the Louisiana electric utilities. Total generation was 17,866 million KWH in 1995, 17,452 million KWH in 1996, and 21,713 million KWH in 1997. The overall average price paid to Louisiana NUGs was 1.80 cents/KWH in 1995, 2.24 cents/KWH in 1996, and 2.41 cents/KWH in 1997. The number of NUG generating units increased from 67 in 1995 and 1996 to 72 units in 1997; gas fired combustion turbines were the additional generators of choice.

The Murray Hydroelectric Plant sold approximately 94% of its generation to Entergy Louisiana, Inc. (ELI), with the remainder going to the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority (LEPA) for ultimate consumption, primarily by the Town of Vidalia. ELI purchased from the Murray plant 869.5 million KWH in 1995, 882 million KWH in 1996, and 944.1 million KWH in 1997.

In 1997, the six coal-fired generators operated by Louisiana electric utilities performed at an overall thermal efficiency of 32.0%, while the natural gas units operated at 31.1% overall. In 1995, these values were 30.8% and 31.5%, respectively. It is not clear, from data available, why gas units were not more efficient than coal-fired units in 1997.

Average utility sales price results for the most recent four years are shown in Table 1.

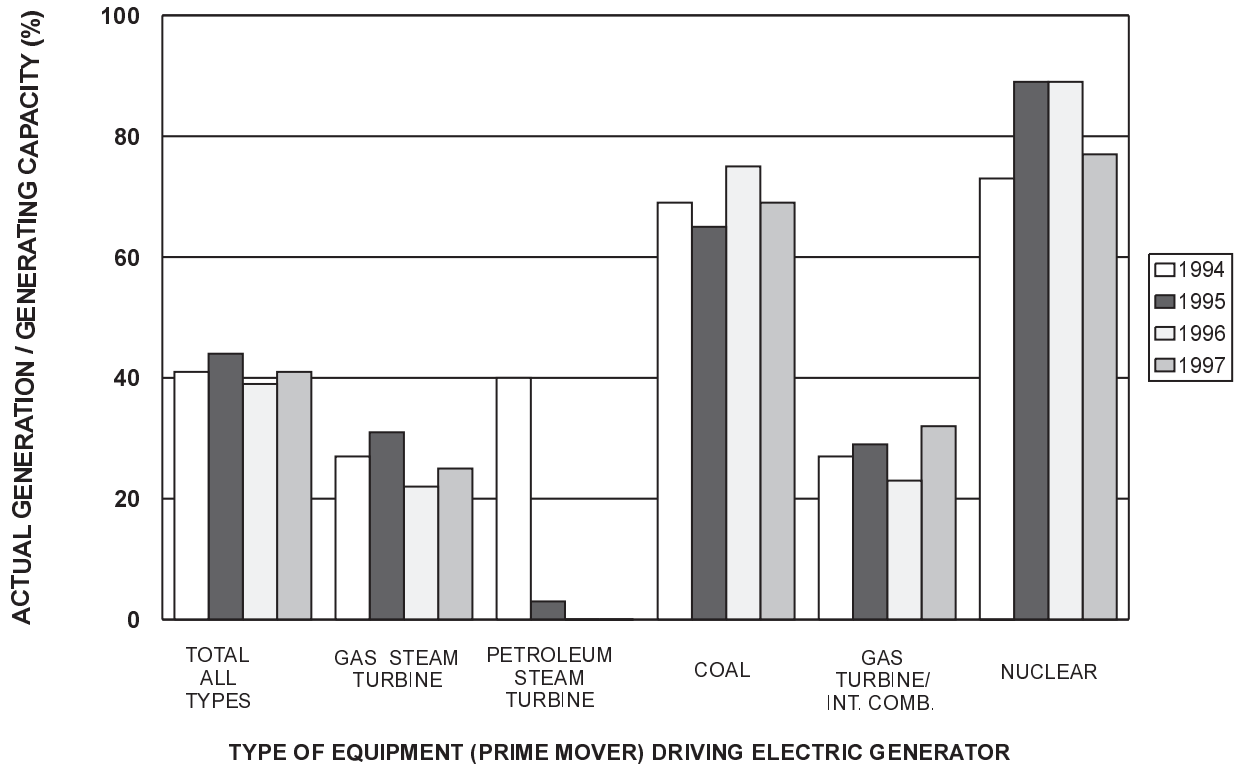
**Table 1**  
**Louisiana Electric Utility Average Sales Price per KWH (Cents per KWH)**

Year	All Sectors	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Other
1994	6.1	7.7	7.5	4.3	7.9
1995	5.7	7.2	6.7	4.0	6.9
1996	6.1	7.7	7.5	4.3	7.9
1997	6.1	7.6	7.1	4.4	6.7

On the next page, Figure 1 shows a comparison of capacity use levels for different prime mover types used by La. electric utilities; Figure 2 shows the average price paid by utilities for power purchased from qualified facilities (QFs). To obtain a copy of the full report, contact:

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**Figure 1**  
**Comparison of Capacity Use for Different Prime Mover**  
**Types for Louisiana Utilities**



**Figure 2**  
**QF Electricity Purchases by Louisiana Electric Utilities**  
**Utility Yearly Average Price Paid for Power Purchased**

