

## Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Craig Station

Tri-State Generation & Transmission (G&T) Association is a wholesale electric power provider owned by the 44 electric cooperatives that it serves. Tri-State, headquartered in Westminster, Colorado, serves more than one million customers across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

In the early 1970s, Tri-State joined with three other regional power suppliers to create the Yampa Project and construct the first two units of the Craig Station. Colorado-Ute Electric Association operated the plant in the 1980s and constructed the third unit at the plant, but filed for bankruptcy in 1990. In 1994, the assets and operation we acquired by Tri-State, Xcel Energy, and PacifiCorp.

The total cost of the Craig Station was \$1.2 billion with a total capacity of 1,274 megawatts(MW). Units 1 and 2, The “Yampa Project” have ownership and output distributed as follows:

- PacifiCorp – 165 MW (19.3%)
- Platte River Power Authority – 154.1 MW (18%)
- Xcel Energy – 83.2 MW (9.7%)
- Tri-State – 205.4 MW (24%)
- Salt River Project – 248.3 MW (29%)

The total 418 MW output of Unit 3 is owned completely by Tri-State. Tri-State also operates and maintains 266 miles of 345-kilovolt transmission line, 20 miles of 230-kilovolt line,

and numerous substations and switching facilities.

Tri-State is the operating agent for the Craig Station, the largest coal-based generating station in Colorado. Nearly half of the five million tons of coal used by the Craig Station annually is supplied by the Trapper Mine, which is also owned by the Yampa Project partners. In this “mine-mouth” operation, coal from the Trapper Mine is delivered to the station by trucks. Supplement coal comes from the Colowyo Coal Mine, some 30 miles away, and the Twentymile Mine near Oak Creek.

The Craig Station uses approximately 15,000 acre-feet of water annually. This water, required primarily for steam generation and evaporative cooling, is taken primarily from the Yampa River, with some supplemental water being available from the Elkhead, Yamcola, and Stagecoach Reservoirs. The plant is a zero-discharge facility, incorporating a closed-cycle cooling system in which the water is treated, used, cooled, and recycled.

A major environmental upgrade was initiated in 1991 at a cost of \$121 million. All three units are equipped with fabric filter baghouses that remove 99.5% of emission particulates. Units 1 and 2 have wet limestone scrubbers to remove sulfur dioxide from the emissions, while Unit 3 uses a dry limestone system. The boilers in Units 1 and 2 are fitted with low NOx burners.