



Meeting Our Future

The demand for electricity continues to grow as the Whiting plant moves past 50 years of serving Michigan's families and businesses.

Today's high-tech world demands more and more electricity to power new industries, advanced computer networks and other technological wonders.

Consumers Energy is exploring a variety of options, including building new generating units, to meet its customers' growing demand for electricity.

Our goal is to provide the electricity you need not only today, but for years to come.



Consumers Energy

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J.R. Whiting Generating Plant

Touching Your Life

The J.R. Whiting Generating Plant touches your life every time you flip on a light switch, use a computer, watch television or do anything that requires the use of electricity.

The electricity that you depend upon comes from the Whiting plant and the other Consumers Energy power plants. These power plants and the men and women who run them provide the electricity you need throughout your normal day, plus nights, weekends and holidays.

Electricity can't be stored, so it has to be generated the instant that you and Consumer Energy's 1.8 million other customers need it for your homes, schools and businesses.

It's not easy to provide that much electricity around the clock, yet the Whiting plant and its 120 employees meet that challenge every day. And they do it in a big way: The Whiting plant can generate up to 328 megawatts, enough to power a city of 230,000 people.

Powering Your Life

The Whiting plant has three coal-fired units. Units 1 and 2 can each generate up to 102 megawatts and Unit 3 can generate up to 124 megawatts.

Each year, the plant uses about 1.4 million tons of coal, which is delivered by rail.

To produce electricity, water is pumped through miles of steel tubes in a boiler. The burning coal

inside the boiler turns the water to steam with a temperature of more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and a pressure of more than 2,000 pounds per square inch.

That high-pressure steam is routed to the turbine for each unit. That steam turns the turbine blades and the shaft attached to the unit's generator. The generators turn at a constant 3,600 revolutions per minute, creating the electricity that goes through the electric transmission and distribution system to serve you and other customers.

Preserving Our Environment

The Whiting plant has a strong tradition of environmental stewardship. The site has been designated a Clean Corporate Citizen by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality every year since 1998. It was the first power plant in the state to earn that honor.

In 2006, the Whiting plant became the first power plant in Michigan to earn the Neighborhood Environmental Partners award, which is given to businesses that have strong partnerships with their local communities.

The Whiting plant has been certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council since 1991. The employees work hard to maintain a tradition of environmental stewardship, planting a wildflower meadow, hosting an annual cleanup along four miles of Lake Erie shoreline and working with local environmental groups such as the Lake Erie Birding Association and the Lotus Flower Garden Club.

Many of the trace amounts of chemicals found naturally in soil and plants also are found in coal and are released during combustion. These emissions are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Consumers Energy has spent more than \$1 billion at its four coal-fired power plant sites, including significant investments at the Whiting plant, to reduce emissions and meet the latest environmental standards.

Those investments have resulted in substantial reductions in the emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other compounds since 1990.

Below: The endangered Lotus flower grows safely on Whiting property.



Below: About 1.4 million tons of coal a year helps Whiting produce the electricity you depend on. **Bottom:** The plant generates power throughout the days, nights, weekends and holidays.

