



Independent Statistics & Analysis

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Administration

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Natural gas beats coal in power generation

The amount of U.S. electricity generated by natural gas is expected to exceed the output from coal-fired power plants this year and in 2017.

In its new monthly forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said natural gas's share of electricity generation in 2016 will be 34% while coal drops to slightly below 31%.

Coal-fired power plants make somewhat of a comeback next year with a generation share of just over 31%. But that's still below the 33% share for natural gas.

High natural gas production and low natural gas prices have made coal a less competitive generating fuel for many U.S. power plant operators.

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