



Independent Statistics & Analysis

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U.S. coal-fired electricity generation takes the lead in 2017

The amount of U.S. electricity generated from natural gas exceeded output from coal-fired power plants for the first time on an annual basis during 2016, but that trend is expected to reverse in 2017, as higher natural gas prices contribute to rising coal-fired generation.

In its new short-term forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects coal will account for about one-third of electricity generation this year, edging out natural gas. However, natural gas is expected to take the lead again in electricity generation during 2018.

The share of generation from nuclear energy is expected to decline to around 19% in 2018 after several nuclear power reactors are retired. Meanwhile, hydropower, solar, wind, and other renewables are forecast to increase to about 16% of U.S. electricity generation in 2018.

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