

Project Purpose & Need

TVA's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) acknowledged continued operational challenges for the aging coal fleet and included a recommendation to conduct end-of-life evaluations on TVA's remaining coal plants.

TVA's recent evaluations confirm that the aging coal fleet is among the oldest in the nation and is experiencing deterioration of material condition and performance challenges.

Additionally, frequent cycling, or the swinging of the generation load from high to low, of the large supercritical units at Cumberland Fossil Plant (CUF) is a recent change in the method of plant operation for which the CUF plant was not originally designed. Such frequent cycling of the units presents reliability challenges that are difficult to anticipate and very expensive to mitigate.

Based on these evaluations, TVA has developed planning assumptions for CUF retirement. TVA proposes to retire one CUF unit as early as 2026, but no later than 2030, and the other unit as early as 2028, but no later than 2033, dependent on when replacement generation could be constructed and brought online.

