

A BLAST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

The Fairpark and neighboring communities were awakened during the night of August 12 to a loud noise coming from the vicinity of Utah Power on North Temple. The sound lasted about 5 minutes and sounded like a jet engine powering up to take off. Residents were concerned for their safety and social media inquiries were plentiful the next day. Utah Power's representative, provided insight into the source of the noise the next day and wanted to assure community residents that there was no danger.



The Gadsby Generating Plant

"Last night there was some extra pressure in the boiler at the time we shut down one of the units at our Gadsby generating plant. This was a regular unit shut down, but it did occur a little later than usual last evening. A large amount of steam was released, and the boiler pressure safety valve emitted a loud sound for a couple of minutes. All the safety devices on equipment performed properly, keeping operations at the plant safe. The issue was resolved this morning and we expect no abnormal noises tonight."---Margaret Oler, Utah Power

The next time you hear this noise coming from the vicinity of Utah Power on North Temple, you will know that this is an assurance that the safety devices on their equipment are working properly and not to be alarmed.

Read about our neighborhood Gadsby Generating Plant in the PaciCorp Brochure.

Gadsby

Generation Facility



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Rocky Mountain Power
Pacific Power
PacifiCorp Energy



The 353-megawatt Gadsby Plant is named for George M. Gadsby, a former president of Utah Power & Light Co., now Rocky Mountain Power. Units 1, 2 and 3 were commissioned between 1951 and 1955 on a 2,500-acre site in Salt Lake City. Units 4, 5 and 6 – simple-cycle natural gas turbine units – were added in 2002. PacifiCorp owns and operates the plant.

The original three steam units were built to burn coal, oil, natural gas or pitch, a waste product from nearby 1950s oil refineries. Prior to 1987 when the plant was furloughed for economic reasons, Gadsby was fueled primarily by coal. We retooled Unit 3 for natural gas exclusively and put it back into operation in 1991, followed by Units 1 and 2 in 1994. Together, the three units are capable of generating 231 MW.

The natural gas in Units 1, 2 and 3 boils water to create steam that is 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and has 1,500 pounds of pressure per square inch. Pipes carry that steam to the turbine to turn its blades to engage the generator to produce electricity.

The spent steam is sent to the condenser, where cool water tubes transform the steam back into water. That water is returned to the boiler to again be heated into steam to repeat the cycle. Excess heat is sent to large cooling towers where the heat is transferred to the atmosphere, creating white plumes often seen rising above the plant.

Our three newer, simple-cycle natural gas turbine generators are designated Units 4, 5 and 6. Together, they are capable of generating 120 MW.

Based on aircraft jet engine technology, each gas turbine unit consists of a gas compressor, fuel combustor and a gas expansion turbine. Air is compressed in the gas compressor and energy is added to the compressed air by burning gas in the combustor. The hot, compressed air is expanded through the gas turbine, which drives both the compressor and an electric power generator.

PacifiCorp is one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, providing approximately 1.7 million customers in the West with reliable, efficient energy. We operate as Rocky Mountain Power in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho, and as Pacific Power in Oregon, Washington and California. PacifiCorp's electric generation, commercial and energy trading, and mining functions are operated as PacifiCorp Energy.

We are serious about our commitment to the communities in which we do business. So are our 35 Gadsby Plant employees. They are active in their communities and – as a group – contribute to the health of those communities through local initiatives and through our Community Giving Campaign, which includes the United Way and other human services organizations.

