

Energy News



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Useful information for the Gilbert community



- ◆ SRP's expansion of the Santan Generating Station brings 825 megawatts of new electricity to the Southeast Valley, where energy demand continues to increase because of rapid growth. The power facility is near the southeast corner of Val Vista and Warner roads.
- ◆ By locating new generation sources close to areas of demand, SRP can continue to provide low-cost, reliable electricity for its customers. Local generation helped forestall widespread outages during last summer's tight power situation.
- ◆ The new units feature state-of-the-art, combined-cycle technology and use only natural gas. Once in commercial operation, the units will be available to operate 24/7.
- ◆ SRP has invested \$20 million in community and site improvements, including extensive landscaping to ensure compatibility with the community.

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Editor's note: This is the fourteenth issue of Energy News. Visit www.santanfacts.org or call us at (602) 236-2679 for previous Energy News issues or for more information about the project.

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NEW UNITS READY FOR COMMERCIAL OPERATION

The first Santan Expansion Project units soon will be ready to provide reliable power to SRP electric customers in the Southeast Valley.

SRP staff anticipates commercial operation in April for the 2-on-1 units, which feature two combustion turbines and one steam turbine. This combined-cycle technology allows for SRP to achieve the maximum amount of energy production from the amount of fuel consumed.

Commercial generation follows a number of months of what is referred to as start-up, which includes the process of testing the various components of the units and ensuring the different equipment parts operate in coordination.

Completed phases of start-up involved fueling the combustion turbines with natural gas and verifying the integrity of the steam piping. Physical observations and checks of each piece of equipment, system, hardware, pipe and wire as well as start-up of the remaining systems also have been accomplished.

The final phase of start-up included restarting units for tuning, further testing and steam turbine operation. Upon completion of these tests, the 2-on-1 units are ready for full commercial operation.

The final Santan Expansion Project unit still is under construction and is scheduled for commercial operation by summer 2006. Start-up activities for this unit are expected to begin in fall 2005.

SITE BEAUTIFICATION, LANDSCAPING ALMOST COMPLETE

SRP's comprehensive effort to ensure that the Santan Expansion Project is compatible with the surrounding community is nearly complete.

Landscaping amenities include a 25-foot-high berm on the north and west boundaries, which features mature trees, decorative gabion walls and low-water-use ground cover plants. More than 1,200 trees have been planted on the 20-acre expansion project site.

Site beautification and landscaping components address feedback and recommendations SRP has received from Gilbert-area residents.

The only work not completed involves the northeast area and the southeast corner of the project site. They must be left available for construction access or installation of underground utilities associated with the plant construction and final work in the "Trails Area." Landscaping work in these areas will be completed in 2007.

TRAILS AREA WILL PROVIDE ENJOYMENT FOR ALL

One of the byproducts of the Santan Expansion Project will be the community's "pathways to progress" on the new "Trails Area" to the east of the generating facility site.

The "Trails Area" includes both equestrian and bike trails, unpaved equestrian resting areas complete with benches for the horse's rider, and a shared use path, surrounded by decorative masonry walls, path lighting, and new plantings of trees and shrubs.

The feature links neighborhoods north of the facility to recreational opportunities at the Town of Gilbert's Crossroads Park and SRP's canal system. When complete, the trail will connect to the Santan Vista Trail.

Additionally, a 10-foot high screening wall and a footbridge over the Eastern Canal were constructed along with this project.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE OVERSEES MONITORING ACTIVITIES

In conjunction with its Santan Expansion Project, SRP has established a local citizens committee to ensure the facility complies with environmental standards.

The Santan Neighborhood Committee (SNC) will review noise compliance, air and water quality data that SRP is required to report periodically to state and federal agencies.

SRP has established an air monitoring facility to aid the process. Results of air monitoring will be made reasonably available on a regular basis to the SNC and then on the Web site to the public. SRP also is providing off-site noise monitoring to test locations suggested by the SNC.

The SNC is composed of designees from homeowners associations in the area as well

as a representative from the Town of Gilbert, Maricopa County Air Quality Division and the Arizona Department of Health Services, plus an engineer who resides in Gilbert.

The SNC had its inaugural meeting Sept. 8, 2004, and toured the Santan plant site and expansion project Jan. 15, 2005. The SNC has had three additional meetings this spring during which members were trained regarding air emission data, decibel levels and water discharge limits. The committee now is autonomous and self-governing; it's anticipated the SNC will meet quarterly.

To stay up-to-date on SEP activities or sign up for e-mail updates, visit www.santanfacts.org and click of "Stay Informed." If you have questions, contact SRP at webmaster@santanfacts.org.

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