Savings for Consumers

A new case study of specific, at-risk coal plants shows that the cost to consumers of keeping them running is just a fraction of the cost in increased energy and capacity market prices should they be allowed to prematurely retire.

- **Cost to keep sample at-risk coal plants running**: $130,000,000
- **Increased energy costs to consumers if at-risk coal plants retire**: $2,000,000,000

**Annual Cost to Consumers**: $2,000,000,000

15X

More expensive to close coal plants than keep them open

Unmatched Grid Resilience

The study also found that coal plants are the primary source of resilience for the electricity grid. In periods of extreme cold, when natural gas supplies are strained from competing power and heating demands, coal is the only source of grid resilience.

In December of 2017, when demand for power spiked during a cold snap, coal supplied 57 percent of the increased generation across the entire eastern U.S. while natural gas only supplied 16 percent.

50 Days

of average coal burn stored on site, which provides reliability in case of fuel supply interruptions

23%

of the total generator outages in PJM during the 2014 Polar Vortex (9,300 MW) were due to interruptions of natural gas supply

8 Million

homes that could be powered by the 12,000 MW of coal-fired power expected to retire this year