

How power gets to *you!*



Lignite coal is mined

Large electric walking draglines remove the overburden from the coal seam. Tracked dozers rip the coal, which is loaded into 180-ton coal haulers and transported to the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D. All mined land is reclaimed to original condition.



Electricity is generated at the power plant

At the Young Station, coal moves through a combustion process to produce steam. The steam causes blades in a turbine to spin, which rotates a shaft. This motion produces an electric current in stationary wire coils in the generator.



Voltage is increased at a substation

The electricity generated at the power plant is sent to a nearby substation to increase the voltage. This allows the power to be transmitted over long distances.



Electricity travels across high-voltage transmission lines

The electrical charge goes through high-voltage transmission lines that stretch from the Young Station, located in central North Dakota, to areas throughout eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, including our service area.



Distribution substations decrease the voltage

When the power arrives at a distribution substation in your area, the electric energy is reduced to a lower voltage making it suitable for high-volume delivery over short distances. The electricity is then distributed to 11 distribution cooperatives who supply the power on their own lines to their members.



Electricity is carried on distribution lines

The electricity travels across distribution lines to your neighborhood, where smaller transformers reduce the voltage again to take the power safe to use in our homes.



Voltage is decreased before entering your home

Electricity is carried to transformers that reduce voltage levels for safe use in homes, schools, farms and businesses.