

# MGE Blount Plant Environmental Improvements

Madison Gas and Electric has made a \$10 million investment in environmental improvements to the Blount Generating Station. As your community energy company, we wanted to improve efficiency and protect the environment. As a good neighbor, we wanted to control noise and airborne dust.

## More Dust Control

- The new Coal Conveyor System controls airborne dust and particles from coal. The conveyor is completely enclosed in large tubes that contain a spray system that controls coal dust.
- The upgraded ash removal system controls dust that could occur while transporting ash.
- The 34-foot-tall wall enclosing the coal yard controls dust blowing from the coal pile.

## Cleaner Air

- State-of-the-art electronic boiler controls and retrofitted burners improved the plant's efficiency and combustion, reducing nitrous oxide emissions.
- Burning plastic and paper-derived fuels reduces mercury and sulfur dioxide emissions.

## Cleaner Streets

- The new Vehicle Tire Wash System cleans the tires on all vehicles leaving the coal yard, preventing dirt and dust from tracking onto the streets near the Blount Station. MGE's water treatment plant treats the water before it leaves the property.
- Paving the high traffic areas of the coal yard has reduced the potential for coal dust and mud leaving the complex.

## Quieter Neighborhood

- When the gates leading into the coal yard open, warning bells sound. In an effort to reduce neighborhood noise, we installed quieter bells.
- Installation of the new coal conveyor system eliminated the need for two cranes and the various noises associated with them.
- A small locomotive called "The Shuttle-wagon" is now shuffling railroad cars in the coal yard allowing more control over when coal is moved. In the past, the railroad moved coal cars nearly every night. Blount crews use the locomotive to move cars in and out mostly during the day, reducing night noise.

## Nicer Looking MGE Campus

- We built an attractive, decorative wall around the coal yard with gates and doors, rather than an industrial fence.
- Extensive landscaping around the power plant, including along the bike path, softens the look.
- We removed old, unused equipment and some fuel oil tanks from the coal yard.
- We removed our retired smokestack, rather than just repaint it.