



# DESERT STAR ENERGY CENTER FACT SHEET

## OVERVIEW

Desert Star Energy Center is a natural gas-powered electric generation facility owned by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). Located in Boulder City, Nev., about 40 miles southwest of Las Vegas. SDG&E took over ownership of the plant in October 2011, and it became part of SDG&E's generation assets.

SDG&E operates the plant and bids the generation into the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) market to help meet the energy needs of SDG&E's customers. Electricity from the facility is transported to San Diego County over existing transmission lines linking Southern California to southern Nevada.

## POWER PRODUCTION

The Desert Star Energy Center can generate up to 490 megawatts (MW) of power, enough electricity to power more than 300,000 homes.

## ENERGY DELIVERY

Electricity generated at Desert Star Energy Center helps meet the energy and reliability needs of SDG&E customers. In 2012 Desert Star Energy Center began to deliver its energy and capacity as if the facility were physically located within the CAISO's southern portion of its system (SP-15). The facility was electrically transferred into the CAISO grid, which allows SDG&E to more easily schedule the facility into the CAISO, enabling the facility to provide resource adequacy benefits and enhance the CAISO's ability to manage the generation output from the facility.

## SDG&E OWNERSHIP

SDG&E evaluated the option to buy the Desert Star plant as part of the utility's 2007 Request for Offers (RFO) for generation resources to meet future electricity needs in the 2010-2012 timeframe. Desert Star was determined to be the least-cost/best-fit option by far for SDG&E customers. Ownership of the Desert Star facility was the least costly alternative compared to building a new plant. It was purchased in 2011 at book value of the plant or approximately \$180 million – compared to building a new 500-MW plant at a cost of more than \$600 million.

## MEDIA CONTACT

SDG&E Media Relations  
877-866-2066 (24 Hours)

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