# Mystic Generating Station, New England's Largest Fossil Fuel Plant, to Cease Operations After Decades of Service



The Mystic Generating Station in Everett, Massachusetts, New England’s largest fossil-fuel-fired plant, will cease operations at the end of the day on Friday. The plant, which has been a significant backup power generator during times of high demand, was deemed no longer cost-effective to run by its owner, Constellation Energy. The plant’s two gas-powered units have only operated about 10% of the time.

ISO New England, the region’s grid overseer, previously arranged a special contract to operate the plant’s units for two additional years, allowing utilities Eversource and National Grid to enhance transmission infrastructure. This contract is set to expire, leading to the plant’s closure.

Located next to a Constellation-owned liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal, the Mystic plant has been able to utilize imported LNG, unlike other plants that often rely on domestic gas or oil during cold snaps. This unique positioning contributed to the plant’s reliability.

While Mystic’s closure marks a shift towards cleaner energy sources, including increased rooftop solar installations and the upcoming Vineyard Wind offshore project, there are concerns about the future of the LNG terminal it relied on. However, the terminal has been approved to remain operational for six more years to ensure adequate LNG supply for heating.

Mystic’s closure also impacts Everett’s tax revenue, which has decreased sharply over the years. Everett officials are exploring redevelopment opportunities, including a potential 25,000-seat soccer stadium project by Wynn Resorts and the Kraft Group, to bolster the tax base and rejuvenate the area.

The plant, initially built during World War II and expanded over decades, faced environmental criticism for burning coal and oil until transitioning to natural gas in 2003. Approximately 40 employees run the remaining units and are being offered other positions, separation packages, or will assist with the plant’s decommissioning.