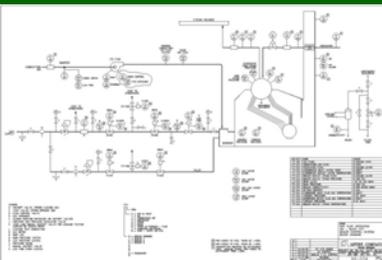
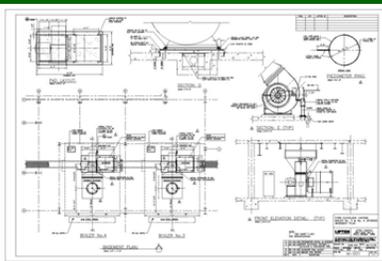
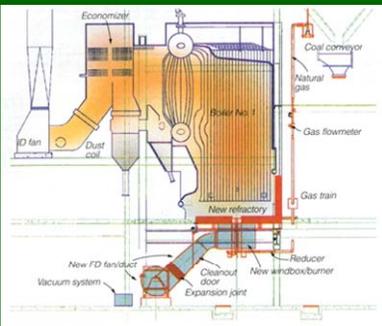
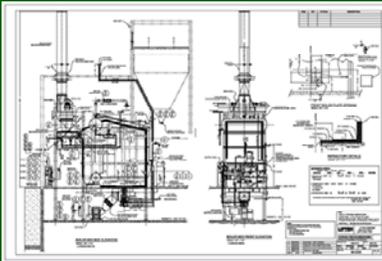


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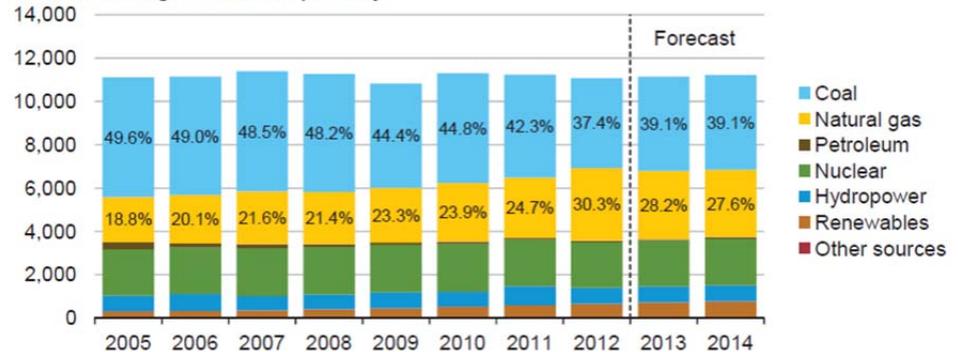


March 13, 2013 - There is a growing trend to convert existing coal-fired power plants to burn natural gas. Coal generation's market share in the United States has declined from around 50% in 2005 to around 37% for 2012. Natural gas generation's market share increased by almost 9% during this time. The reasons for coal's decline are primarily twofold:

1. **Federal regulations are making it more costly to operate coal-based facilities:** The Environmental Protection Agency is producing numerous regulations specific to coal-fired facilities that will retire many coal-fired power plants or add substantial costs for compliance.
2. **Natural gas is displacing coal:** Natural gas combustion produces almost 45 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions than coal, emits lower levels of nitrogen oxides and particulates, and produces virtually no sulfur dioxide and mercury emissions. Falling natural gas prices, triggered mainly by significant recently discovered resources, have helped natural gas to establish competitiveness as a fuel source for power generation.

U.S. Electricity Generation by Fuel, All Sectors

thousand megawatthours per day



Note: Labels show percentage share of total generation provided by coal and natural gas.

Source: Short-Term Energy Outlook, February 2013

A power plant can switch to natural gas either by retrofitting existing coal-fired units to burn natural gas or by closing the coal plants and building new gas-fired plants. Converting existing facilities to fire natural gas will cost much less than building a new natural gas plant. Also, conversion to natural gas often costs less than installing the emissions control systems required to keep an antiquated coal plant running under new federal regulations.

The opportunities for energy efficiency are limitless and the technology is ever changing. Every energy-efficient power plant needs a good plan- an energy strategy. That's why you need a partner with vast power generation experience and command of emerging technologies to help you take advantage of available resources. Lipten has remained innovative and stands at the forefront of technology to provide clean, reliable, cost effective energy systems.

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