



Coal Asset Valuation Tool (CAVT)

Stemming the Tide of Imprudent Investment 17 October 2013 Liz Stanton and Pat Knight

Coal units all over the country are retiring



Coal units are typically retired due to:

- Future costs of additional environmental retrofits
- Increased competiveness of market purchases

How can we anticipate the potential costs of environmental retrofits?

How can we compare these costs to market purchases?

What is CAVT?

- CAVT is a spreadsheet-based database and model.
- It aggregates publicly available data (such as capacity, generated power, and heat rate) on non-cogenerating coal units
- CAVT combines this with publicly available cost methodologies to calculate the cost of complying with environmental regulations
- It adds in environmental retrofit capital and O&M costs for the year the control is expected to come into effect. The net present value of each unit's lifetime cost is then calculated for 2013 through 2042.
- CAVT then compares these economics with proxy values for energy market prices.

Coal unit competitiveness without retrofit costs



Many units currently announced for retirement are more economic than market price, if we assume no change in environmental controls.

Coal unit competitiveness with retrofit costs



Adding in the costs of environmental retrofits drives most units to be uneconomic– including all but three units currently announced for retirement.

Sensitivity Analysis

	High	Natural gas prices grow at the AEO 2012 Low Estimated Ultimate Recovery Case rate of change	
Natural Gas Price	Mid	Natural gas prices grow at the AEO 2012 Reference Case rate of change	
	Low	Natural gas prices grow at the AEO 2012 High Estimated Ultimate Recovery Case rate of change	

	Strict	FGD, SCR, Baghouse, ACI, Impingement Controls and Recirculating Cooling on units with intakes > 125 MGD, Coal Combustion Residual (Subtitle C), Effluent Regulatory Option "4a," "Synapse Mid" CO_2 Price				
Environmental Control Requirements	Mid	FGD, SCR, Baghouse, ACI, Impingement Controls and Recirculating Cooling on units with intakes > 125 MGD, Coal Combustion Residual (Subtitle D), Effluent Regulatory Option "3," "Synapse Mid" CO_2 Price				
	Lenient	Baghouse, ACI, Impingement Controls, Effluent Regulatory Option "3a," "Synapse Low" CO ₂ Price				

Note that environmental retrofits are required in different years based on the sensitivity.

Results: Mid-cases and sensitivities

Uneconomic Coal Capacity Compared to Energy-Only Purchases (GW)

		Environmental Retrofit			
		Lenient	Mid	Strict	
Natural Gas Price	High	192 (62%)		292 (94%)	
	Mid		295 (95%)		
	Low	254 (82%)		306 (98%)	

Uneconomic Coal Capacity Compared to All-In Purchases (GW)



Results: Mid Environmental Retrofits, Mid Gas Price



Results: Lenient Environmental Retrofits, High Gas Price



Results: Strict Environmental Retrofits, Low Gas Price



Muskingum River 5: A Case Study in Uneconomic Coal



How does CAVT compare?



Appendix: Natural Gas Price Projections



Appendix: Carbon Price Projections



Levelized Costs (2012 \$/short ton) High: \$59.38/short ton Mid: \$38.54/short ton Low: \$23.24/short ton Synapse "Mid" assumed for medium and Strict CAVT cases. Synapse "Low" assumed for Lenient CAVT case.