



JDY FAQs

1. When was JDY built? How long was it in use?

The first units in JDY were built in 1940. The plant burned coal for 76 years, until it closed in 2016.

2. How much electricity did JDY produce?

When it was constructed in 1940, JDY had two 7.5 megawatt (MW) turbines, producing a total of 15 MW. In 1953, unit 3 was constructed adding an additional 11 MW. In 1962 and 1968, units 4 and 5 were built adding an additional 22 MW and 28 MW, respectively. When the plant closed, it had a total capacity of 61 MW.

3. How big was the coal yard? How much coal was used each day?

The plant used about 380 tons of coal each day, for a total of about 140,000 tons each year.

4. Where did the coal at JDY come from? How did it get to Holland?

More recently from western states due to the lower sulfur content: Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Kentucky. Previously it tended to be from eastern states, such as Kentucky and Illinois. Coal from the west sent by rail to Chicago and then transferred to boat and shipped on Lake Michigan, into Lake Macatawa and unloaded at the JDY dock. Coal from the east was sent by rail to Toledo and then around the Great Lakes in through Lake Macatawa.

5. How many people worked at JDY? What kinds of jobs did they have?

45 employees covered duties at JDY, unit 6, 48th Street peaking units, the gas pipeline, and the landfill. Their positions varied from plant operators, mechanics, instrumentation and controls technicians, coal and ash operators, utility / cleaners / operator apprentices, engineers, environmental regulatory specialist, and supervisors.

6. How large is the JDY coal plant?

The property JDY occupies is 17 acres. The plant footprint and support buildings total over 40,000 square feet.

7. Have the ash pond and coal yard been cleaned up?

Yes, the clean-up was complete in the spring of 2018.

8. Are there any hazardous materials in the plant?

The plant does contain lead-based paint, asbestos, and mercury. There used to be PCB's but those were removed years ago.

9. Is the plant structurally sound?

Yes.

10. Did JDY have a snowmelt system, too?

Yes: snowmelt was first installed in 1988, and originally circulated water from Lake Macatawa.