



Arrangement for a 1950s coal-fired power plant

I'd like to know more about the site arrangements and tracks needed to serve a small Midwestern power plant of the 1950s.

Andy Wayne, Orlando, Fla.

A medium-size power plant has been the subject of some recent e-mail exchanges I've had with Tony Koester, editor of *Model Railroad Planning*, and Bob Lucas of the Akron, Canton & Youngstown (ACY) RR Historical Society. We were all interested in a power plant served by both the ACY and the Nickel Plate Road at Bluffton, Ohio, midway between Lima and Findlay. The aerial photo shows it about 1953.

The Central Ohio Light & Power Co. (COL&P) opened this plant, named the

Woodcock Station, in 1937. At the time, the COL&P supplied service to 37 communities including Findlay, North Baltimore, and Wooster.

The COL&P's Eastern Division had 310 miles of transmission and distribution lines radiating from Wooster. Its Western Division operated two other steam generating plants, one in Findlay and another at St. Marys that was used for standby service. They served more than 200 miles of transmission lines.

New power plant. The company's power requirements had been increasing rapidly, and additional generating capacity was needed, so a new plant location was obtained just east of Bluffton. This site included an abandoned stone quarry

This aerial view shows a medium-size steam power plant in the early 1950s. Located along the Akron, Canton & Youngstown RR at Bluffton, Ohio, this typical plant received up to 11 loads of coal daily. Fred Steiner photo collection

that was turned into a 26-acre artificial lake to furnish cooling water.

The new plant used pulverized coal for fuel. A pair of steam generators supplied turbogenerators that produced the electrical power.

Equipment for the new plant came from the power industry's leading manufacturers: Combustion Engineering made the fuel burning equipment and pulverizing mills; Fort Pitt Bridge Works fabricated the structural steel and coal bunkers; General Electric made the switch boards, main switch gear, and substation transformers; Ingersoll-Rand built the condensers; Riley Stoker Co. produced the boilers; Westinghouse supplied the turbogenerators; and Worthington made the boiler pumps.