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POWERING AI DATA CENTERS

Polluting plants – disproportionately located in low-income communities – forced back into service



GETTY IMAGES

‘VERY DISAPPOINTING’

Laila Kearney
REUTERS

CHICAGO – In Chicago’s working-class Pilsen neighborhood, a 1960s-era oil-fired power plant rises up from an industrial lot behind Dvorak Park, which in warmer weather is packed with children climbing on its colorful playground and zooming down slides.

The rarely-used eight-unit Fisk power plant owned by Houston-based NRG Energy was scheduled to retire in 2026. But then came electricity demands from artificial intelligence.

Prices shot up in the country’s biggest power market, PJM Interconnection, as electricity requests from data centers

See **POWER PLANTS**, Page 5A



The rarely used Fisk power plant in Chicago’s working-class Pilsen neighborhood was scheduled to retire in 2026.

PHOTOS BY ERIC COX/REUTERS

“If you were a redlined neighborhood, you were more likely to have a fossil fuel power plant built nearby, and we saw that relationship was even stronger for peaker plants.”

Lara Cushing, UCLA professor of environmental health sciences



Fisk Coal Station’s dormant smokestack is visible from Dvorak Park in Pilsen, a predominantly Mexican community.

Data centers become a rally point

Destini Ambus
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

On Nov. 20, Ginny Hines looked around the Port Wentworth City Council chambers and wondered what was happening.

At the last minute, the Port Wentworth City Council added a proposed amendment to its zoning ordinances to the agenda. The amendment was written on just one sheet of paper

See **RALLY POINT**, Page 3A

Museums executive director resigns

Destini Ambus
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Telfair Museums announced Tuesday afternoon that Executive Director David Brenneman has stepped down due to a serious medical condition.



Brenneman

Board Chair Susan Willetts will serve as the the Interim Executive Director, while the Board of Trustees conducts a nationwide search immediately for his replacement, according to a press release.

See **DIRECTOR**, Page 3A

Note to readers

Due to the fast-changing winter storm, you may experience delivery changes of your printed newspaper – including early delivery of the Sunday paper, or delayed delivery of some editions until road conditions are safe. Visit us online for the latest updates on the storm’s impact on our community.



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