= Glenwood Generating Station =

Glenwood Generating Station is a power station in Glenwood Landing , New York owned by National Grid plc . It is mainly known for being the former site of an architecturally significant 1920s brick power station . That building and an adjacent 1950s station were demolished over the course of 2013 to 2015 , due to their obsolescence as well as the excessive cost of safely retaining the building given its poor condition . Two smaller generators constructed in 2002 remain in operation .

= = Architecture = =

Station 2 was constructed in the 1920s and considered significant as a rare surviving example of early 20th @-@ century industrial architecture . It was designed in an industrial Beaux @-@ Arts style , with large arched windows and stringcourse intended to prevent it from becoming an eyesore given its proximity to affluent communities . It was constructed with Flemish bond brickwork and decorative limestone elements . It was also constructed to minimize noise and ash pollution . Buildings with such architectural detail were usually found in urban areas , making the Glenwood plant unusual for being far from urban areas at the time of its construction . The building was divided into three sections : a narrow four @-@ story administration section to the north containing offices ; a five @-@ story turbine room containing a large open space with decorated glazed buff brick walls ; and a six @-@ story boiler house mainly filled with equipment , topped by six 140 @-@ foot smoke stacks (ultimately reaching 265 feet above the floor slab) . At the time of its demolition the New York State Office of Parks , Recreation and Historic Preservation determined that it appeared to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places , triggering an alternative use analysis . Given the building 's poor condition after three decades of disuse , the excessive cost of making the building structurally sound prevented any plans to retain or renovate it .

= = History = =

= = = Construction and early history = = =

The first facility on the site was Station 1 , constructed in 1906 and expanded during World War I , which existed until at least 1939 . The Station 2 building was constructed from 1928 to 1931 by the Nassau Power and Light Company , a predecessor of the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO) . The extra generating capacity was needed due to a sixfold increase in Long Island 's electricity demand from 1910 to 1925 . The expansion also reflected LILCO 's then @-@ novel philosophy of using few centralized power plants interconnected by transmission lines , rather than many small plants distributed through the region . In 1936 it was described as " the key electric generating plant of the Long Island system , " and its control room managed LILCO 's entire system . In 1939 it was upgraded to burn both coal and oil , and in 1946 natural gas capability was added .

In 1942 , a 3 @-@ hour power outage caused by testing of new distribution circuits affected seven major factories producing material for World War II . These included the Grumman plant in Bethpage and the Republic Aviation plant in Farmingdale , where workers staged an impromptu baseball game while they waited for power to return . Local hospitals and Mitchel Field were able to continue operating under auxiliary power . Although sabotage was not suspected , it caused the colonel in charge of civilian protection for Nassau County to request that the Army guard the power station .

The two units of Station 3 became operational in 1952 and 1954 . At the time The New York Times called it " one of the most modern power plants in the country , " with both mechanical and electrostatic precipitators for dust and ash collection , as well as valve silencers and noise barriers . It was the first turbine generator mounted on an open deck in the Northeastern United States . An identical unit was constructed in Far Rockaway , Queens in 1953 .

= = = Later history = = =

In 1972 , the Town of Oyster Bay board unanimously denied LILCO a permit to further expand the plant with five 50 MW gas turbines , citing air @-@ quality concerns and the effects of the 1970s energy crisis . Town Supervisor John W. Burke at the time noted the board 's recognition that " in view of the fuel shortage , construction of gas turbines just seems out of step with the direction being taken by the average consumer , who lowers his thermostat and wears a sweater in his home to reduce the amount of fuel burning . "

The Station 2 generating units were taken out of operation in 1978 , but as late as 2009 the building was used for such purposes as a waste water treatment facility for the adjacent operational units , office and warehouse space , and transmission and fiber optic lines .

In 1998 , as part of a state @-@ brokered deal , LILCO 's power generation facilities , including the Glenwood plant , were absorbed into KeySpan Energy , with the public Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) taking over transmission and delivery functions . In 2001 , LIPA proposed building two mini @-@ turbines at Glenwood Landing as part of a plan to build ten such plants across Long Island to avoid the risk of rolling blackouts in the face of increased demand like those experienced in California the previous year . The pair of turbines produced 79 MW , just under an 80 MW threshold that would have triggered a full regulatory and environmental review . The new turbines were completed by May 2002 , and were the first of the ten to enter operation .

As a result of the 1998 deal , LIPA had an option to purchase KeySpan 's power plants outright before December 2005 . Just before the option expired , LIPA decided to purchase two plants in Far Rockaway and Oceanside with the intention of modernizing them , while there was no provision for immediate modernization of the remaining major plants in Glenwood Landing , Port Jefferson , and the Northport Power Station . KeySpan was acquired by National Grid in 2007 .

Station 3 's utilization decreased from 43 percent in 2001 to 11 @.@ 2 percent in 2005 . As of 2009 , the power station was used as a peaking power plant operating in the summer , with two operational natural gas steam @-@ electric generating units with a combined 210 MW capacity . It had a once @-@ through water cooling system using water from the adjacent Hempstead Harbor . By 2014 the Station 2 building had deteriorated to the point where it was nearing condemnation .

= = = Demolition = = =

In 2011 it was announced that the Glenwood Landing station would be shut down and demolished along its sister plant in Far Rockaway . The two stations were described as the oldest and least efficient of the power plants on Long Island , with the closures saving $ 76 million through 2015 .

Local resident Karin Barnaby campaigned to renovate Station 2 for commercial and cultural uses rather than demolish it , pointing to other redeveloped historic power plants in the United States such as the Pratt Street Power Plant in Baltimore and the Homan Square Power House in Chicago . Despite collecting 780 signatures for a petition , this was rejected due to the excessive cost of renovating the building given its poor condition . Demolition was estimated to cost $ 8 million , as opposed to $ 31 million to make the building structurally sound without improving it , and $ 100 million to renovate it into a mixed @-@ use development including an exhibition hall in the old turbine room . Using the building for new power generation capacity was deemed unfeasible because modern generation equipment was incompatible with the building design .

Demolition of the plant raised concern about the financial effects on the local North Shore School District , as the over $ 20 million annual tax payments from the plant provided 20 percent of the district 's budget . This led to fears of a 15 ? 19 % increase in residential taxes in late 2014 . However , it was determined that according to state law there could be no more than a 1 % increase in property taxes for a given tax class as a result of a decreased tax assessment in another class (the four tax classes being residential , cooperatives / condominiums , commercial , and utilities) . The financial effects on the district would thus have to be mitigated by increased taxes on remaining utilities in the district , as well as a $ 2 @.@ 5 million one @-@ time grant from the state arranged by local state legislators . The site 's municipal and school payments in lieu of taxes fell from $ 23 @.@ 2 million in 2012 to $ 16 @.@ 6 million in 2015 .

Station 3 was demolished in November 2013 , and demolition of Station 2 was completed in 2015 . National Grid opted for a controlled deconstruction rather than an implosion or using a wrecking ball . The demolition of Station 2 required the relocation of a peregrine falcon nest from the top of one of the smoke stacks . After demolition and land remediation had been completed , the area was planned to be paved over with asphalt and offered to developers . Two gas @-@ turbine peaking generators , three electrical substations , three fuel tanks , and a water tower elsewhere on the site remain in operation .