

Working to Provide Jobs and Power

The Desert Rock project is working diligently to provide a project that will both create jobs to the Navajo people and will give power to an ever-growing Southwest United States. During construction the project will require an average of 1,000 construction workers per year and 400 workers to operate the power plant and mine. The electricity generated from Desert Rock will contribute about 17% of the new generation required to meet the electricity demands of the Southwest.

The period to receive comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement concluded October 9, 2007. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is now reviewing the comments received and incorporating these comments into its Final Environmental Impact Statement, expected in the second quarter of 2008. To facilitate an area of the Environmental Impact Statement concerning water usage and the source of water, test wells were drilled at the site to test the Morrison aquifer. This is a very deep aquifer from which water will be used for project consumption. The construction of the wells is complete and the field testing of the wells is complete. Detail on this work is presented in the article below. ❖



"1,000 construction workers per year & 400 permanent workers"

Test Water Wells Completed

The monitoring well and test well are being tested to provide information for the Final EIS.

Completing the Environmental Impact Statement requires testing the Morrison aquifer, a water-containing underground formation 5,800 feet deep in the earth. The test wells are used to calculate the impact on the aquifer of taking water for project use. There is currently no water used from this formation in the vicinity of the project, other than some wells used for livestock water drilled by the BLM. It is simply too deep to be affordable to drill for water and the water quality is too poor to be used for residential purposes. However, it is a perfect source of water for an industrial project. The wells were flow tested to determine impacts to the aquifer, water quality, and impacts to other wells in the area. Initial indications are that there is adequate water to supply the plant, there will be no impact to wells in the region, and that the water will meet the project's needs. ❖

Project Facts

- The air permit for this 1,500 MW project, which will provide electricity for 150,000 homes will have the most stringent emission limits of any coal fired plant in the United States.
- The project will provide more than \$50 Million in tax revenue to the Navajo Nation each year of operation for the Nation to build infrastructure and promote programs for further economic development. This would not be possible without using Navajo Coal for electricity.
- Recent studies demonstrate that the design of the Desert Rock project is superior to IGCC. The Colorado governor admits IGCC is possible to use in high elevation areas but too expensive to build and operate. Recently 4 IGCC projects were cancelled and 4 put on hold, mostly for cost reasons. ❖

1,000 Construction and 400 Permanent Jobs

The Four Corners area can expect some much needed jobs starting in 2008. Desert Rock and the BHP Navajo Coal Company will provide jobs with an average salary of \$60,000 per year.

The average annual income per person on the Navajo Nation is \$7,578, according to the 2000 US census. Over 40% of the Navajo people live below the poverty level. Although Desert Rock cannot employ all eligible adults on the Navajo Nation, it is a perfect example of the kind of business the Nation needs to provide jobs and economic stimulus. The project requires an average of 1,000 workers during its four year construction period. After it is operational the project will need 400 workers to operate the plant and the mine. These jobs will pay over \$100 million average total salaries during construction and almost \$90 million average total salaries at the power plant each year for at least 50 years after construction.

Average Wage \$60,000

What does this mean for you? You could possibly be one of Desert Rock's employees or be hired by one of the many contractors that will build and support the operations of the project. For example, the project will produce almost one million tons of fly ash every year it operates. This fly ash can be recycled and added to supplement cement which is used for concrete in roads and buildings throughout the area. Truckers, handlers, and equipment operators will need to be hired by the company that is chosen to provide this service. Many



companies like this one will support the project.

Another example of the economic benefactors of the project might be the owners and employees of the various businesses that will spring up to support workers coming to and from the project site. Businesses like gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants will be sprinkled along the roads leading to the site to provide services to a hungry and thirsty crowd of workers.

Peak Monthly Construction Payroll \$25 million

Shown below is a chart demonstrating over time the total amount of salaries paid by the project and its operation. This money will go right into the local economy to pay for a better living standard for hundreds of people and their families.

The Desert Rock Energy project will set an example for industry allowing for continued economic development and hopefully prosperity for the Navajo People. ❖

