

AECOM Awarded Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Project for Continued Operation of a Major Power Plant and Coal Mine in Arizona

EIS for the Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine Complex Project will enable the facility to provide water and energy to the region from 2019 through 2044

FORT COLLINS, Colo.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--AECOM, a global provider of professional technical and management support with a leading environmental practice, has been selected by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to prepare a third-party comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) for the continued operation of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) and Kayenta Mine Complex (KMC), operated by the Salt River Project (SRP) and the Peabody Western Coal Company (Peabody), respectively.

Authorizations for the continued operation of NGS and KMC require compliance with dozens of federal and tribal regulations, and jurisdictional approvals from approximately 10 cooperating government agencies. The EIS will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which require a broad range of environmental and social impacts be thoroughly evaluated, and include multiple opportunities for stakeholder and other public comments.

The Navajo Generating Station, which is solely powered by coal from the Kayenta Mine, supplies 90% of the power needed by the Central Arizona Project (CAP) — the largest source of renewable water in the state of Arizona. The CAP's service delivery area customers include cities, towns, industry, Native American communities, irrigation districts and water companies in three Arizona counties representing over 80% of the state's water users. Approximately 1,000 Native American workers are employed at the NGS and KMC facilities. With the NGS lease expiring in 2019, the recently approved lease amendment by the Navajo Nation and the subsequent authorizations by the federal agencies, which the EIS will assess, would extend the generating station's operation serving Arizona and the region with energy until 2044.

Throughout the expected 3-4 year project EIS preparation, AECOM will work closely with Reclamation, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and other co-operating agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). AECOM experts will analyze and document in the EIS the critical technical and public issues, including the potential impacts to human health, air and water quality, regional visibility, endangered species and other biological resources, socioeconomic, cultural and historic resources, Indian Trust assets and environmental justice.

For example, AECOM air quality scientists and engineers will analyze GHG emissions and climate change impacts, and compile and objectively review information and data to assure the

best available science is used to assess potential impacts from the proposed continued operation of the generating station and mine complex. Senior biologists will evaluate and, if needed, propose mitigation for impacts to fish and wildlife (including migratory birds), vegetation and wetlands, and will work with agencies, SRP, and Peabody to conduct an extensive ecological risk assessment in the region. The project will feature a full public participation plan and tribal outreach initiative with liaisons from the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and other affected tribes. The power plant and much of its associated infrastructure are located on Navajo Nation lands; the KMC is located on reservation lands of both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe.

AECOM was selected by Reclamation to work with federal, state and local agencies on the EIS because of its successful 30-year history preparing third-party NEPA EIS documents in the western U.S., and its technical expertise and environmental permitting and management experience with large, complex capital-permitting projects involving numerous regulatory and cooperating agencies and communities.

According to Matthew Sutton, chief executive of AECOM's environmental business, "We're pleased to provide technical and project management experience to help ensure the success of this critically important environmental assessment project that will deliver water and energy to Arizona for more than 25 years." During the past 10 years, AECOM has completed 30 major EIS projects for energy and industrial development, including hydrocarbon fueled and renewable power generation facilities, precious metal mines, oil & gas fields, pipelines, and electric transmission lines with federal and other cooperating agencies.

About AECOM

AECOM is a global provider of professional technical and management support to the energy, transportation, facilities, environmental, water and government markets. With 45,000 employees, AECOM blends global reach, local knowledge, innovation and technical excellence in delivering solutions that create, enhance and sustain the world's built, natural, and social environments. A *Fortune 500* company, AECOM serves clients in 140 countries and had revenue of \$8.2 billion for the 12 months ended March 31, 2013. www.aecom.com. Follow AECOM's environmental business on Twitter [@EnvironAECOM](https://twitter.com/EnvironAECOM).

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