

## The Cycle of Coal, Power, and Water



### 1. Kayenta Mine

Peabody Coal runs this mine. The Navajo Tribe leases Navajo land to Peabody, and Peabody gives the tribe a percentage of the profits, about %10 of the money made from each ton of coal. This mine provides the 8 million tons of coal per year that is needed to run the NGS.

### 2. Navajo Generating Station (NGS)

The NGS produces electricity by burning coal. It is also on the reservation, near Page. A lot of the electricity it produces goes to CAP, for a lower price than it is normally sold for. NGS is not owned by the Navajo tribe, but by a group of large power companies. It uses at least 28,000 acre feet/ year of water. (This unit is the amount of water needed to cover an acre of land with one foot of water).

### 3. Central Arizona Project (CAP)

This is the route that CAP pumps water from the Colorado River to about 80% of Arizona's residents. CAP pumps 1.5 billion gallons of water/ day with the electricity from the NGS. If the NGS closes, the price of water in Arizona is expected to rise 50- 300% because cheap electricity to run CAP will no longer be available.

# What's going on with the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) and how does it affect all Navajos?

The EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, an agency of the US government, has told the NGS that it is polluting too much. The EPA has told the NGS it must install BART.

### What is BART?

BART stands for Best Available Retrofit Technology. It means the NGS must install the best technology available for preventing the release of pollutants into the air. Right now, the EPA is trying to decide what technology the NGS needs to install. The technology will cost between \$550 million to one billion dollars.

Could the NGS close sometime in the near future?

It could, if it decides not to pay for BART because it feels BART is too expensive compared to the money it makes from selling electricity.

Why do some members of Navajo, and Black Mesa residents, want the NGS to transition?

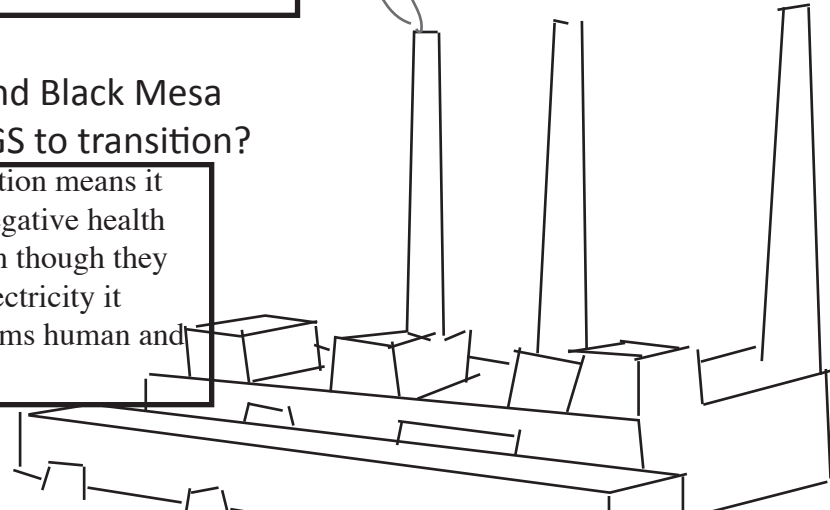
Burning coal on the reservation means it is Navajos that suffer the negative health effects of burning coal, even though they don't use the majority of electricity it produces. Burning coal harms human and environmental health.

Why do some Navajos, including the tribal government, not want the NGS to transition?

The NGS provides jobs, about 300 full-time positions, and money from the sale of its power and the land it leases to Navajos. However, many Navajos do not think these economic benefits are worth the harm the power plant causes.

What should happen next?

Navajos should move towards a "greener" economy. This would mean that the Navajo people could make money and also maintain their health and that of the environment. The Navajo tribe should move towards renewable energy, creating electricity from the sun and wind, which does not harm the environment, or does so much less than burning the coal.



# Coal:

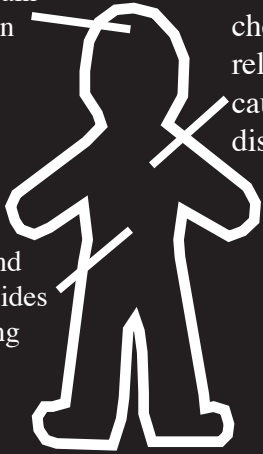
## Its Negative Health and Environmental Effects

When coal is burned, it releases several pollutants:

Mercury causes brain damage in infants

Many chemicals released cause heart disease

Nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides cause lung disease



**48** deaths from coal mining accidents in 2010 alone

How coal affects:

**WATER**

chemicals can seep into water  
acid rain

**LAND**

destruction of landscapes  
chemicals left in soil can harm wildlife

**AIR**

creation of smog  
particulate pollution

For more information, see the following websites:

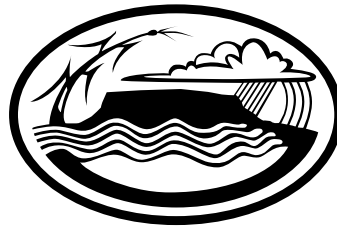
Black Mesa Water Coalition

<http://www.blackmesawatercoalition.org/>

Environmental Protection Agency- Navajo Reservation

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/navajol>

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**The Navajo Generating Station, Coal, and You**