

Air Quality, Climate Change, and Socioeconomics



AIR QUALITY

NEPA Issue #3

- Dust and vehicle emissions during construction (24 – 36 months) would cause a **short-term decline in air quality in the project area**. This would end after construction.
- **The risk for fire, hazardous leaks, or other catastrophic events would be negligible.**
- **Mitigation:** Standard practices to control dust and construction equipment would be kept in good working order.

The benefits...

Reliance on renewable energy over fossil fuels will lead to **beneficial, long-term increases in air quality.**




GREENHOUSE GAS + CLIMATE CHANGE

NEPA Issue #4

- UMU lands are experiencing **severe drought** and **high average temperatures** caused by the warming of the planet. Impacts: **Health risks, Reduced water availability and quality, Diminished crop yields, Loss of livelihood, and Increased wildfire risk.**
- Short-term, negative impacts from construction would be temporary.
- Sun Bear will produce about 1,979 GWh of energy **per year.**
- Sun Bear is expected to yield **long-term beneficial effects on GHG.**

The benefits...

Approx. **1,402,483 metric tons of CO2** would be displaced by Sun Bear **every year**. This represents...

-  **312,095** vehicles driven for one year
-  **272,887** homes' electricity use for one year
-  **69,327** garbage trucks of waste recycled instead of landfilled

Sun Bear would align with the *Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Climate Action Plan* goals to **generate a long-term and predictable source of revenue, enable energy self-sufficiency, and reduce GHG.**

SOCIOECONOMICS

NEPA Issue #9

- Construction would require **~200-300** employees. Once operational, **10 - 20** full-time employees.
- **Priority would be given to UMU members** for jobs. There would be job skills training.
- Solar panel manufacturing facilities are expected to be built in Towaoc.

The benefits...

The UMUT would **?** priority for employment and income from **lease payments.**

The UMUT would also receive a **percentage of the revenue** generated by the solar energy.

This money will help **fund UMUT programs, develop jobs, and?** increase educational opportunities.

