The Navajo Generating Station is a 2,250-megawatt coal-fired power plant owned by a consortium and operated by the Salt River Project and located on the Navajo Indian Reservation, near Page, Arizona. The plant was authorized by Congress in the late 1960s and provides electrical power to customers in Arizona, Nevada, and California. It also provides the power for pumping Colorado River water for the Central Arizona Project.

The Kayenta Mine has been operated by Peabody Energy since 1973. The mine is located on 44,073 acres of leased land within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. The mine is the sole supplier of coal for the 2,250 megawatt Navajo Generating Station (NGS). The mine to mouth's backbone is the 80 mile long electric railroad supplying Kayenta’s only customer – the Navajo Generating Station (NGS). NGS consumes 240 rail cars of the Kayenta Mine’s coal every day.

The plant and mine employ more than a thousand people when operating at full capacity.

Potential economic impact of closure, current Coconino County initiatives moving forward
**City of Page Economic Impact**

In 2017, Kayenta Mine contributed $440 million. The Navajo Generating Station contributed approximately $51 million.

**Regional Economic Impact:**

Since 1987 Navajo Generating Station and the Kayenta Mine contributed nearly $1.3 billion to the Navajo and Hopi economies.

Key Challenges

- Job losses at NGS and the Kayenta Coal Mine will have a very significant impact on the region and these high paying jobs are not easily replaced. Average annual wages of NGS workers range between $70,000 and $74,000.
- Lack of reliable, commercial grade broadband prevents the region from engaging in today’s economy.
- Noticeable impacts include decreasing school district enrollment; decreasing revenues; and very significantly, decreasing population on the Navajo Nation.
- Lack of infrastructure poses challenges to renewable energy development.

Bringing Broadband to the Region

- Tuba City/Moenkopi Broadband Stakeholders Group is addressing fiber optic connectivity within the western communities of Navajo and Hopi.
- This regional partnership of stakeholders met with the Federal Communications Commission in Tuba City to discuss the challenges and opportunities of fiber optic connectivity in the region.
- Broadband connectivity is a challenge in our rural communities.
- Broadband is a critical connection to thriving communities in order to secure economic prosperity, education, and a healthy community.

Northern Arizona Economic Outlook

Initiative & Economic Diversification Efforts

- Expansion of the Coconino County Basic Business Empowerment training series to Page in support of individuals starting or growing a small business.
- ASU’s Center for Sustainable Tourism: Rethinking, Reconfiguring, & Retraining Guest Service Skills
- Star Parties / Grand Spiral Tourism
- Old Spanish and Other Local Trails
- Veteran’s Computer Center
- Local Leadership Academy
- LEAN practices for Business Success
- Summer Coding Camp for Youth
- Star Parties / Grand Spiral Tourism
- Guest Service Skills

“As the region transitions, we look to collaborate with the State Legislature in identifying and securing funding to support economic diversification initiatives. We continue our hard work to keep the promises made to these communities and to ensure that families are held together and communities are kept whole.” – Supervisor Fowler, Coconino County Supervisor for District 5
Support Needed from Our Legislative Delegation

Diversifying the economy is a critical priority for this region. Normally, diversification has an extended time frame, however, given the anticipated closure of NGS in 2019 economic opportunities must be created within a much-shortened timeframe.

Our Legislative Delegation can help by:

- Recognizing the region has some significant challenges, job losses at NGS and the Kayenta Mine will have a very significant impact on the region. These jobs are not easily replaced.
- Support aggressive pursuit of alternatives to assist the region in educational attainment, broadband development, and economic planning and development.
- Advocacy and support of current and future initiatives by participating in critical conversations, building coalitions and capacity building, and financial support for the region’s success.

Fundamental Values that a Diversified Economy in the Region Will Preserve:

- Keep families together
- Keep communities whole
- Sustain natural and cultural values
- Keep promises to communities
- Workforce development
- Higher education
- Health and wellbeing