26.0 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

This chapter identifies those environmental resources that would be irretrievably lost due to the implementation of the Proposed Action and, consequently, would not be available for reuse for other purposes. These include irreversible and irretrievable use of both natural and man-made resources that would be expended during the construction and operation of the Proposed Action, including the irreversible and irretrievable use of building materials, energy and human effort required to construct and operate the Proposed Project. These are considered to be irretrievably committed, since their reuse for another purpose would be highly unlikely or completely unviable.

As detailed in Chapter 19, "Construction Impacts," substantial amounts of construction material would be irretrievably committed to construction of the Proposed Action. This would be offset by the long-term economic benefits gained by the Proposed Action. In addition, as detailed in Chapter 15, "Energy," approximately 260,350 BTUs/hr of energy would be consumed each year for the operation of the Proposed Action. Moreover, the physical development of the Proposed Action would render use of the Project Site for another use infeasible.