



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

Zion National Park: Air Quality at Risk

Park highlights

- Zion National Park preserves 229 square miles of sculptured canyons and soaring cliffs amidst the diverse wilderness occurring at the junction of the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, and the Mojave Desert.
- Visitors can travel into the park along the Pa'rus Trail and explore other hiking, biking, horse, and walking trails.
- Many hikers travel along the bottom of canyons such as Timber Creek, Pine Creek, and Zion Canyon, or enjoy spectacular overlooks of the canyons from above.

Current air quality

- Hazy air, caused by fine particles of soot, is growing worse at Zion National Park.
- Several plant species that live in the park are known to be sensitive to ozone. National Park Service monitoring has found unhealthy ozone pollution and probable ozone injury to several plant species, including snowberry.
- Nearby sources of this pollution include power plants, refineries, and lime kilns.

New coal-fired power plants

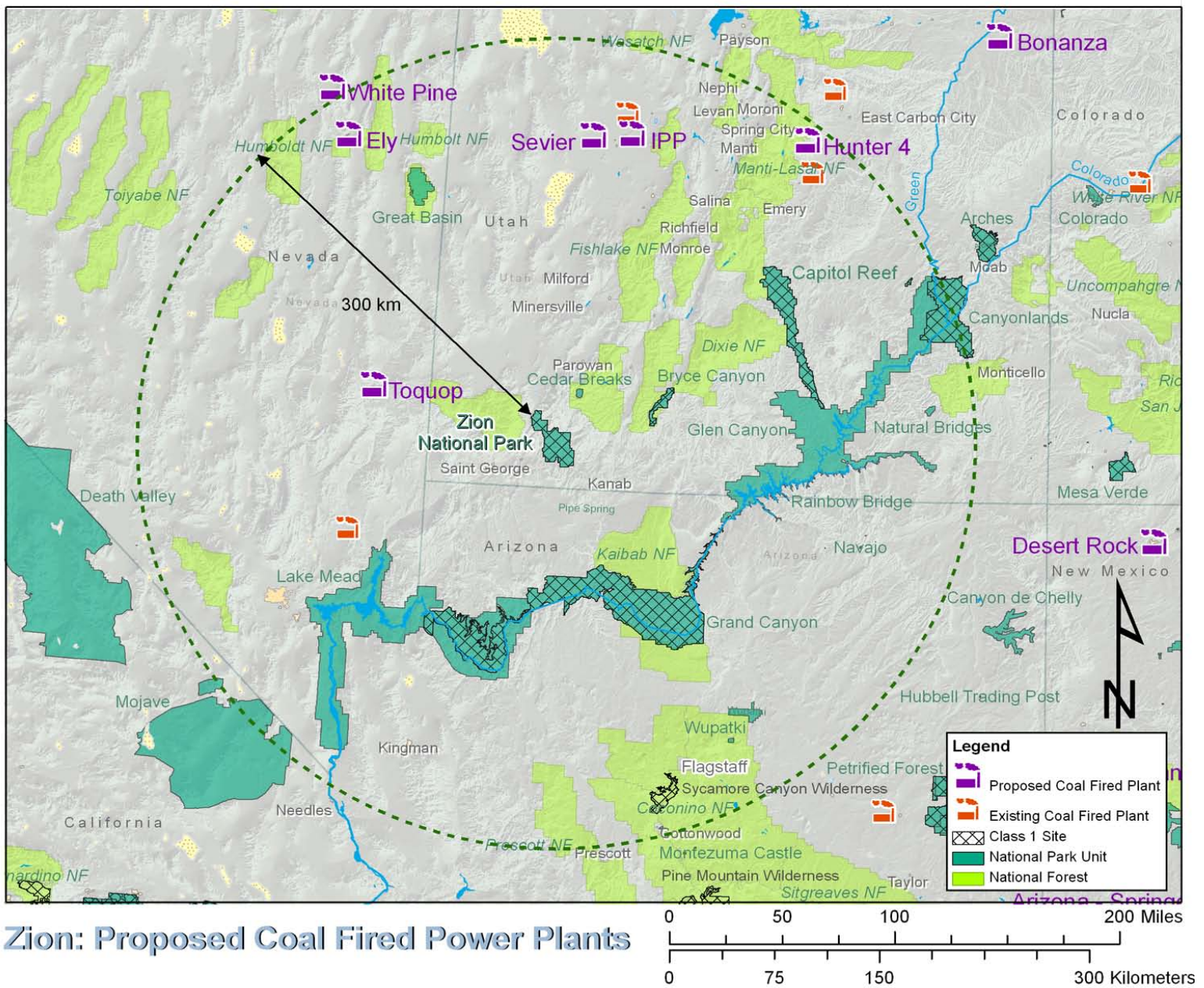
- Five large, new coal-fired power plant projects are under active development within 186 miles (300 km) of Zion National Park, in a region that already has three operating coal-fired power plants; two other coal-fired power plants operate just beyond that distance.
- Each year these five new plants would emit into the Zion area air shed more than 44 million tons of carbon dioxide, 16,708 tons of sulfur dioxide, 14,898 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 765 pounds of toxic mercury. This new pollution will accelerate the worsening haze problem at Zion, add additional stress to rare plants in the park, and raise the risk that park visitors will experience asthma attacks or other breathing problems.

National Park Service findings

- "...We still have several unresolved issues regarding" air pollution impacts from White Pine Energy Station on Zion National Park, including whether pollution caps would be exceeded, whether visibility would be degraded, and whether the facility would use the best emissions controls. "We are also concerned about the cumulative impacts" of White Pine and other coal plants in Utah and Nevada.



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Zion: Proposed Coal Fired Power Plants

Power plants that have received permits or are in active permit process

Plant	Location	Owner	Size (MW)	Distance from Park	CO2 tons/yr	SO2 tons/yr	NOx tons/yr	Hg lbs/yr	Permit Status
White Pine Energy Station Project	White Pine County, NV	White Pine Energy Assoc.-Dynergy/LS Power Assoc.	1,590 MW	283 km	12,600,000	6,071	4,814	279	Draft air permit issued December 2006
Ely Energy Center	White Pine County, NV	Nevada Power Co. & Sierra Pacific Power	1500 MW	250 km	16,000,000	4,853	4,628	263	Draft air permit issued December 2007
Toquop Energy Project	Lincoln County, NV near Toquop Indian Reserv.	Sithe Global Energy	750 MW	108 km	4,339,799	1,352	1,614	131	Draft air permit issued December 2007
Sevier Power Company Project	Sevier County, Utah	Sevier Power Co NEVCO Energy Co.	270 MW	190 km	1,755,000	234	1,067	9	Final air permit issued October 2004
Intermountain Power Plant	Millard County, UT	Intermountain Power Agency	950 MW	230 km	9,922,200	3,568	2,775	83	Final air permit issued October 2004
Total New Pollution into Zion Area Airshed					44,616,999	16,078	14,898	765	

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