

8. IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

For the proposed project, some of the resource commitments would be irreversible and irretrievable; that is, the resources would be neither renewable nor recoverable for future use. Resources that would be irreversibly or irretrievably committed by construction and demonstration of the proposed facilities include trees and other vegetation destroyed at the site, construction materials that could not be recovered or recycled, and fuel and flux consumed.

Resources used during construction of the proposed facilities would include crushed stone, sand, lumber, water, diesel fuel, gasoline, and iron ore and coal used to produce steel. Resources used during the demonstration would include anthracite culm (which is an energy resource that is also considered a coal waste), petroleum coke, natural gas, limestone, and water. None of these resources is in short supply relative to the size and location of the proposed project.

The proposed project would require a commitment of human and financial resources that would prevent use of the resources for alternative projects or federal activities. However, the commitment is consistent with the purpose of and need for the proposed action (Section 1).