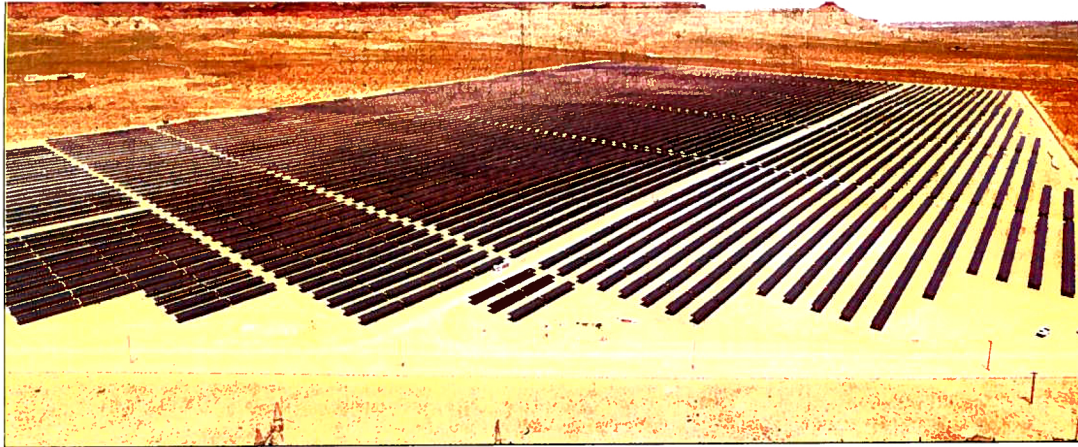


# THE TRUTH WELL TOLD

# Independent

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Courtesy photo

The Kayenta Solar Farm is seen near Kayenta, Arizona, in this aerial photo when construction was completed.

## \$60 million solar farm completed in Kayenta

Vida Volkert  
Staff writer  
eastnavajo@gallupindependent.com

KAYENTA, Ariz. — A \$60 million solar farm has been completed on the Navajo Nation and it is already producing electricity, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority spokeswoman Deenise Becenti said.

Becenti said Wednesday that the Kayenta Solar Project was completed in six months and is already sending power to the transmission grid in Kayenta.

Solar farm project manager Glen Steiger wrote to the Independent that “the majority of the power is being sold to the Salt River Project, so the number of NTUA homes served during the first year will vary from 0-1000.”

Becenti said the farm is producing 27.3 megawatts of electricity and no other tribe has developed a solar project as ambitious. The farm consists of 119,301 photovoltaic panels on single axis trackers that follow the daily path of the sun.

“The plant’s output of 27.3 MW is enough energy to service approximately 13,000 homes,” Becenti said. “The service life of the plant is expected to exceed 25 years, during which it will generate up to 1,900 GW of energy.”

Close to 250 individuals, including 195 Navajos, worked during the height of the solar facility’s six-month construction, Becenti said.

Construction began in December and was completed May 15.



Photo courtesy NTUA

Kayenta Solar Farm workers install panels in March during the height of construction near Kayenta, Arizona.



Photo courtesy NTUA

The Kayenta Solar Farm is seen near Kayenta, Arizona, when construction was completed.