Chapter 18: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There are several resources, both natural and built, that would be expended in the construction and operation of the proposed action. These resources include the land area used for the facilities; building materials used in construction; energy in the form of gas and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the project by the various mechanical and processing systems; chemicals required for operation of the plant, including methanol, ethanol, and polymer; and the human effort (time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the project. They are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the project would be highly unlikely.