



# Ivanpah solar power facility closing

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The solar power facility under construction in August 2013. The Ivanpah Solar power project was built on 6 square miles (16 km<sup>2</sup>) of public land in the south central Mojave Desert. [62] Project construction was temporarily halted in the spring of 2011 due to the suspected impacts on desert tortoises. [63]

Misaligned mirrors were believed to have heated up the wrong part of a tower at the Ivanpah solar plant in California, leading to a fire that caused the tower to be shut down. A second tower...

Fire leads to shut down of tower at 392-MW Ivanpah solar power plant in US. The fire is believed to have occurred at electrical cables due to misalignment of the mirrors, which reflect sunbeams. This has resulted in the closure of a generating tower at the world's largest solar power plant.

The \$2.2 billion Ivanpah concentrated solar power facility in California has fallen well short of its expected power output and now has a year to get itself back on track, or it risks...

A small fire caused one tower to be shut down at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in California, 9:30am Thursday, May 9. While officials declined to comment before investigation is completed, San Bernardino County Fire Department captain Mike McClintock believes misaligned mirrors were to blame.

Plant personnel had to climb some 300 feet up the tower to get to the fire but successfully managed to put out the fire within 20 minutes, before the firefighters could get to the scene.

The plant produces power by using computer-controlled mirrors to reflect sunlight onto boilers, which produce steam that drive turbines, producing electricity. Firefighters believe some mirrors were mistakenly aligned to direct the sunlight onto a different level on the third unit, and the intense heat caused some electrical cables to catch fire.

The plant, located on federal land in the Mojave Desert about 45 miles southwest of Las Vegas, opened two years ago and has the capacity to power 140,000 homes in California. Apart from the burnt tower, a second tower is down for maintenance, leaving it running on only one of its three towers. It has not yet been made clear how this will affect California's power supply, and until when. There is also no information made public as to the cost of damages to the \$2.2 billion power facility as of now.

Ivanpah is already walking on thin ice as the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has given them only until the end of July this year to deliver the output required of them in its power purchase agreement (PPA), which energy company and Ivanpah part owner NRG says they are not likely to meet.

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Associated Press cited San Bernardino County Fire Captain Mike McClintock as saying that misaligned mirrors focused sunbeams on a different level of Unit Three which resulted in fire at electrical cables.

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