RE Ajo 1

LOCATION
Ajo, Arizona (located adjacent to the Freeport McMoRan mine).

TOTAL GENERATION
5 megawatts; APS receives all the energy output through a purchase power agreement.

OPERATION DATE

OWNER
Recurrent Energy

DETAILS
The 5-megawatt photovoltaic plant is situated adjacent to Freeport McMorRan’s Ajo Copper Mine. This plant is an example of how partnerships can help drive the development of solar energy in Arizona. Recurrent Energy is leasing the land from the Phoenix-based copper company, while a long-term agreement between Recurrent Energy and APS has all the clean energy generated at the facility going to APS customers.

The plant sits on 38 acres and uses 25,000 solar panels attached to a single-axis tracking system. The energy enters the grid at the Coffee pot Substation, located 1 mile from the plant.

RE Ajo 1 is not only providing much needed energy to APS customers, but also serves as a research facility. Engineers and interns come to the plant to gather data and test the performance of solar modules.