Table 7

The Economic Implications of MATS Rulemaking in Montana
Population Impacts (People)

	Impacts by Year		
Age Cohort	**2028**	**2035**	**2040**
Ages 0-14	-318	-923	-1,014
Ages 15-24	-279	-452	-507
Ages 25 64	707	2,192	2,421
Ages 65+	2	81	164
Total	**1,305**	**3,647**	**-4,106**

Conclusion

This report has summarized and documented the findings of an analysis of the economic implications of the MATS rulemaking in Montana. Specifically, it addresses how the MATS rulemaking-induced closure of the Colstrip Steam Electric Station (SES) in Rosebud County in southeast Montana due to the physical or economic infeasibility of meeting the reduced mercury emission threshold in the new final MATS rule would affect the economy of the state. The potential for economic harm from the rulemaking is made greater due to the tight coupling between the Colstrip SES and the immediately adjacent Rosebud Mine that serves the generation station with its coal supply via conveyor belt. This is because without substantial new development in rail infrastructure, the continued production of coal with the closure of the generating station would be impossible and its closure would occur as well.

The basic finding of this study is that implementation of the new MATS standard would be a significant negative event for the Montana economy. The loss of the high-paying jobs at the two facilities, and the cessation of the significant vendor spending and tax revenues associated with their operation, would ultimately precipitate a loss of 3,262 jobs in 2028, the first full year of closure after the new standards take effect. This impact represents the difference between what employment in the state would have been in a no-closure scenario and the post-closure job total. This employment impact grows to 3,446 jobs in 2030.

Other dimensions of economic vitality are presented in this report. All underscore the overall conclusion that a Montana economy that is required to meet the final rule of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MATS regulation is smaller, less prosperous, and less populous than would occur if the current rules remained in effect.