



Utah Office of Energy Development - Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee

February 3, 2026



Utah Code: 79-6-401

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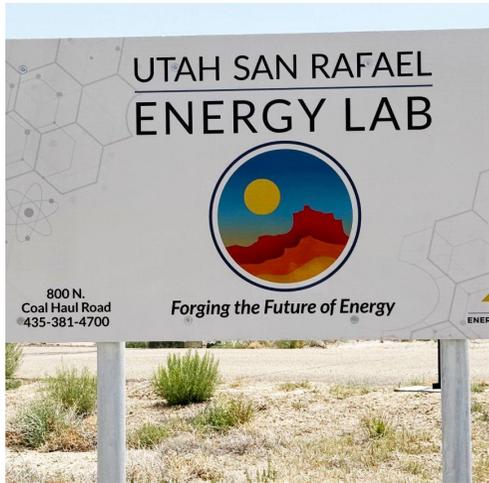
The Utah Office of Energy Development (OED) serves as the primary resource for advancing energy and mineral development in the state, implementing the state energy policy, and advancing the Governor's energy vision.

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UTAH OFFICE OF
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

2025 Achievements Highlights



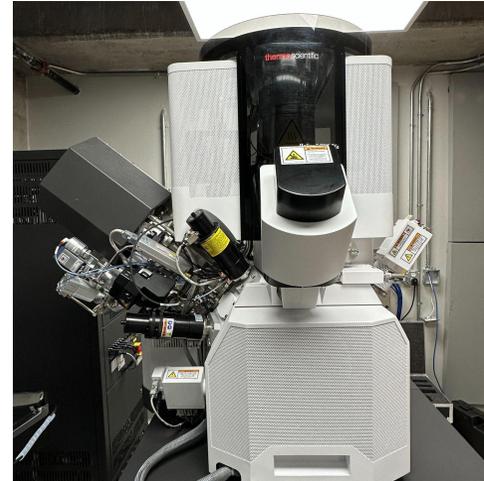
San Rafael Energy Lab

Valar Atomics groundbreaking on test reactor on September 11th, target completion by July 2026 - Lab also has expanding partnership with Natura Resources conducting research at the Lab.



Expanded Nuclear Partnerships

MOUs and partnerships with companies investing in the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium mining, milling, processing, power generations, and fuel recycling.



Energy Education

OED is using building block funds from 2025 session to help better educate the public about the benefits and challenges of nuclear ecosystem development in Utah. Also engaging in K-12 education.



Geothermal Development

Supporting geothermal development in the state, and actively investing in innovative district heating possibilities

2026 Objectives At-a-Glance



Mission Critical

To meet national security and energy demands, the U.S. is prioritizing domestic critical mineral production. Utah's diverse geology and robust mining infrastructure make it a primary leader in achieving this resource independence.



Operation Gigawatt

This effort has catalyzed energy ecosystem development, particularly in the nuclear space. Diverse projects are being proposed and S.B. 132 provides a pathway to bring new large loads to Utah, while protecting ratepayers.



Geothermal

OED is working to support innovative growth for geothermal energy in Utah, both for power generation and district heating.



Coal Power

We are committed to protecting our baseload resources. OED is working with the Utah Energy Council to implement H.B. 70 to get the IPP coal units generating power as soon as possible.

OED: A large mission with a lean team

- **Federal programs:** GRID, GRIP, EECBG, Home Energy Rebates, State Energy Program
- **State Programs:** STEM K-12 Energy Education, Workforce Development, REVI
- **Tax Incentives:** High Cost Infrastructure Tax Credit
- **HB 249 (2025 Session)** created new duties for OED, including the Utah Energy Council, Nuclear Consortium, Advanced Nuclear Energy Institute
- **Research Team:** Data modeling, policy analysis, research into new energy opportunities: including geothermal, nuclear, hydrogen, oil and gas, coal, storage, and other energy resources
- **USREL:** partnering with Valar Atomics and Natura Resources, generating additional interest and partnerships

Nuclear Partnerships

- Hi Tech Solutions and Holtec International - plans to develop manufacturing facility, training center, and eventual SMR
- Energy Solutions and IPA - exploring potential future development at IPP site
- Idaho National Lab - MOU for nuclear research and workforce development
- TerraPower - MOU for preliminary site selection, potential for Sodium reactor following Kemmerer Wyoming model
- Other companies across nuclear fuel cycle, including manufacturing and reprocessing



Partnerships at Utah San Rafael Energy Lab

- Valar Atomics high-temperature gas-cooled (HTGR) nuclear test reactor, target completion July 2026
- Natura Resources conducting advanced research at USREL



Nuclear Education & Community Outreach

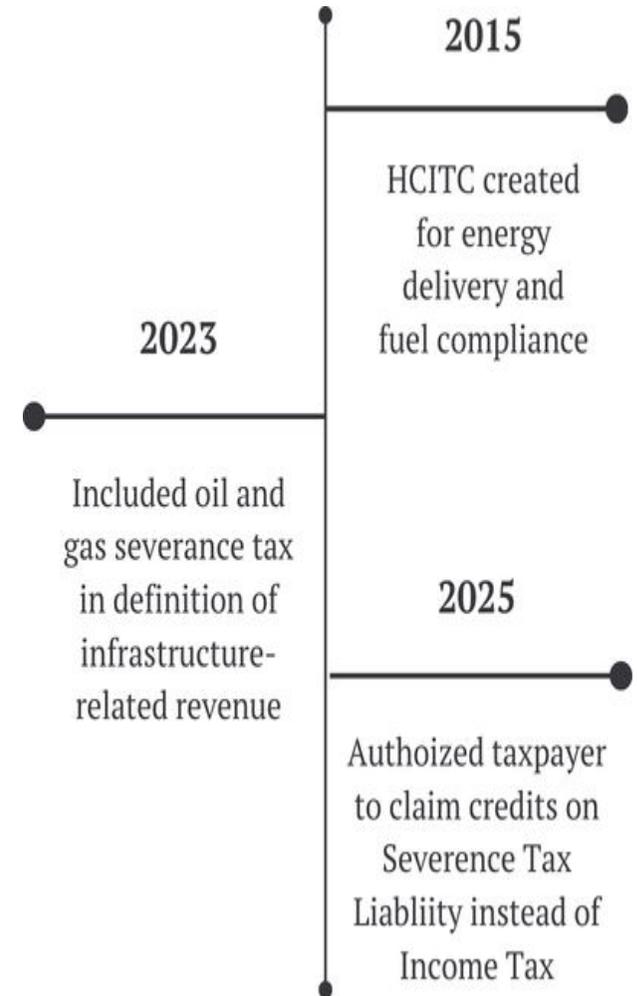
- Statewide energy education and community outreach campaign.
- Bottom up, grassroots approach.
- Every county in the state will have a community engagement event and we will provide local leadership with tools and resources.
- Publicly available information: website, factsheets, subject matter expert videos.



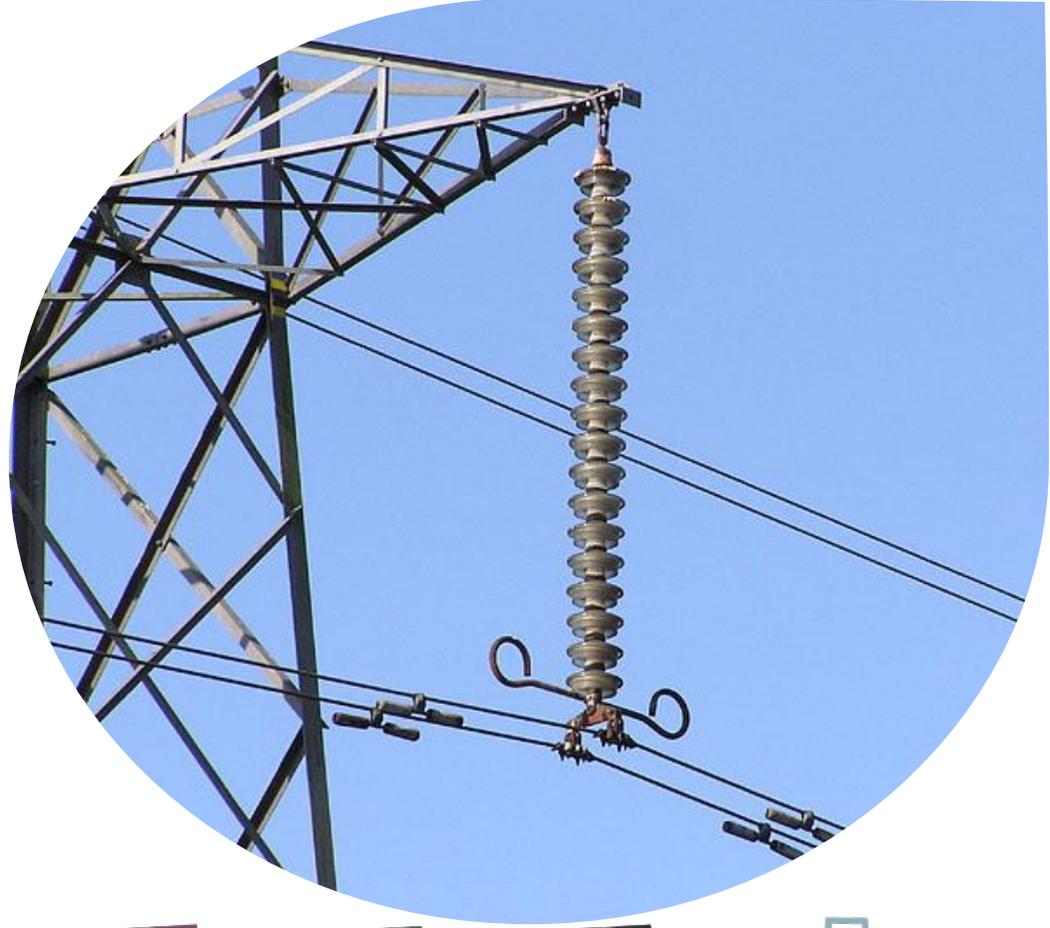
High Cost Infrastructure Tax Credit

- Applicants have expressed the importance of changes made to the HCITC for their decision to expand in the state.
 - Renewed interest from the oil and gas industry not seen since the tier 3 fuels addition, but no clear picture yet of how many additional wells have been incentivized.
- The HCITC is a powerful tool for multiple industries looking to locate or expand in Utah,
 - Nuclear companies
 - Mining operations, including lithium
 - Oil and gas development

Timeline



THANK YOU



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