



NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
HONORABLE JONATHAN PERRY – COUNCIL DELEGATE
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION

BECENTI
NAGEEZI

CROWNPOINT
NAHODISHGISH

HUERFANO
TSE'II'AHÍ

LAKE VALLEY
WHITE ROCK

REPORT TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND
THE RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members:

It is a privilege to be invited to provide an update report to you regarding cleanup efforts on the Navajo Nation regarding past uranium mines. There are over 50 chapters within the State of New Mexico and within those areas there are numerous contaminated sites that have been identified that need to be addressed. As you are aware, radioactive contamination respects no jurisdiction and with that it becomes an issue for local, county, state, federal and tribal governments.

The Navajo Nation has been active in looking into addressing remediation and the proper first steps have been taken, that is establishing by tribal law the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission "DURAC", which consists of a membership made up of technical and scientific experts, as well as representation from the local communities with each region of the Navajo Nation having a commissioner to represent the communities directly. This is a tremendous step for the people as they have a voice in not only the planning and the directions of any efforts made within their areas. At this time the Commission is still filling vacant positions. The Commission will also be using funds and working with plans from the Navajo Nation-Tronox Settlement.

As a tribal leader, I see this as the beginning because as we all know there is no definite answer to our nuclear waste problems within our state. But we need to collaborate for the benefit and protection of our people. The Navajo Nation alone does not have the resources to completely tackle this issue and with the Eastern Navajo Agency in the midst of various jurisdictions it will take the Navajo Nation, San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola Counties, the State of New Mexico, and the Federal Government with their various agencies to be involved.

Today I ask that we take a closer look at our communication and collaboration efforts to see that a more comprehensive plan is developed, and further more implemented; for far too long our people and communities and have waited for solutions while suffering from radioactive pollution. Our people want to see the reality of not only remediation, but also the reality of protecting our communities and our homelands safe from any more nuclear development.

Thank you again for allowing me time to provide this report.