TITLE: An Action Relating To Resources And Development Committee And
NAABIK’IYATI’ Committee And The Navajo Nation Council; Approving The
Uranium Clean-Up Position Statement

Date posted: December 24, 2019 at 11:20 AM

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N.N.C. §374 et. seq.
DATE: December 23, 2019

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND NAABIK’ÍYÁTI’ COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING THE URANIUM CLEAN-UP POSITION STATEMENT

PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolution is to approve the Navajo Nation Uranium Clean-up Position Statement.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.
PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

[Signature]

Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0380-19

AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING THE URANIUM CLEAN-UP POSITION STATEMENT

Section One. Authority

A. The Navajo Nation established the Resources and Development Committee ("RDC") as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered RDC with oversight of land, environmental protection and cultural resources and authority to review and recommend resolutions to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council to accomplish or impact the Committee purpose. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 500 (C), 501 (B)(4)(a) (2015).

B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal and state departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation through intergovernmental relationships between the Navajo Nation and such departments. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(7).

C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
Section Two. Findings

A. The Uranium Clean-up Position Statement, attached as Exhibit A, states “Uranium mining on the Navajo Nation has devastated both our lands and our way of life as Dine people. The impact has not only been physical, but also spiritual and emotional as well.”

B. The Uranium Clean-up Position Statement further states: “[T]he issue of uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation is important and time-sensitive for Navajo people. How can we live in harmony and balance when our people are chronically being exposed to radiation and our Mother Earth has been exploited and scarred with abandoned uranium mines?”

C. The Navajo Nation Uranium Clean-up Position Statement is organized in the following manner:
   1. The Legacy of Uranium Mining on the Navajo Nation;
   2. The Navajo Nation’s Position on Abandoned Uranium Mine Clean-up; and
   3. Former Mill Sites on the Navajo Nation.

D. “[T]he Uranium legacy on the Navajo Nation is not only costly, but the remediation efforts are also fragmented across numerous federal agencies. . . . This fragmentation results in constant state of evaluations and re-evaluations but never promulgates steps toward expedited remediation.”

E. A Navajo Nation Uranium Clean-up Position Statement is needed to assist with an organized approach to the remediation work.

Section Three. Approval

The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Navajo Nation Uranium Clean-Up Position Statement attached as Exhibit A.