



## Joint Statement

Navajo Nation Office  
of the President and the Vice President  
and Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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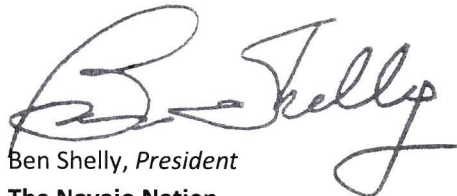
### **JOINT STATEMENT REGARDING COURT RULING CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The Navajo Nation has been informed of the Federal District Court of Colorado's decision to vacate and remand the Office of Surface Mining's (OSM) Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) concerning the Navajo Transitional Energy Company's (NTEC) Permit Revision Application, and OSM's approval of the Permit Revision Application.


The District Court made its decision based on uncertainties over the validity of the Office of Surface Mining's Environmental Assessment. The determination of those uncertainties outweighed the vitality of the Navajo Nation economic status.

When rendering its decision, the Court did not consider the affect of revenue and the estimated 800 plus employees of Navajo Mine and the Four Corners Power Plant. However, the Navajo Nation remains optimistic and must remain diligent that our efforts will sustain the workforce for years to come. In 2014, royalties and taxes from mining operation contributed over \$37 million to the Nation's general fund account.

Despite Judge Kane's ruling, the Navajo Nation remains confident in the EA and FONSI issued and performed by OSM are valid. Since the Court rendered its decision, additional data and determinations have been completed which may provide updated environmental findings regarding the facts of this case. NTEC has filed a notice of appeal and requested a stay of the decision pending the appeal. The Nation will continue to review and consider all legal options available.



Ben Shelly, *President*  
The Navajo Nation



LoRenzo Bates, *Speaker*  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council