



August 12, 2015

Statement from Speaker LoRenzo Bates regarding EPA claim form

The Office of the Speaker has received inquiries regarding the dissemination of a claim form from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entitled, "Standard Form 95" in relation to the ongoing contamination of the Animas River and San Juan River. To be very clear, the Office of the Speaker has not encouraged or otherwise influenced any individuals to sign and/or submit the form.

The form was received directly from the U.S. EPA and distributed strictly for informational purposes and to provide the public the opportunity to educate themselves in regards to the language contained within the document.

There is no question that Diné Citizens deserve to be compensated to the fullest extent, and that the federal EPA be held accountable for their negligence.

I do, however, encourage the public to read the form thoroughly to gain a very clear and comprehensive understanding of its contents and to seek further consultation, if necessary, so that individuals may make an informed decision for themselves — this notion was communicated to President Begaye and his administration during a meeting on August 11.

The Office of the Speaker remains committed to providing as much information as possible to the public concerning this devastating event, and continues to demand accountability and timely information from the U.S. EPA.

Ahé'ée'

LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
23rd Navajo Nation Council