



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2015

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Navajo Nation Council ratifies restated federal charter of incorporation for Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company

WINDOW ROCK – The Navajo Nation Council on Monday met in a special session and approved Legislation No. 0284-15, the ratification of the restated federal charter of incorporation for Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company—a federally chartered Section 17 Corporation established under the authority granted by the Navajo Nation Council, which has been in operation since 1998.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) acknowledged the politics surrounding the amendments to the charter and other controversial circumstances, but asked his Council colleagues to support the legislation in order to move the corporation forward.

The Council in 2014, approved amendments to the federal charter through legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii), which then required the approval of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

In a letter dated Aug. 8, 2014, Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director Sharon Pinto issued approval on behalf of the U.S. DOI, which then required ratification by the Council for the amendments to take effect.

Major changes to the federal charter include qualifications of NNOGC board of director members.

In accordance with the new amendments, NNOGC board of directors will now have to meet certain qualifications outlined in the amended charter, including having substantial knowledge, understanding, and competency in the oil and gas industry, commercial management, and operation experience in the oil and gas industry.

Each of the seven members of the board will serve staggered three-year terms. Additionally the charter restricts public officials, government officials, and directors and commissioners of any Navajo Nation enterprise, industry, authority, corporation, or instrumentality from serving on the board of directors.

The amended charter also reduces the number of NNOGC shareholders from ten to five, representing each of the Council's five standing committees.

Delegate Shepherd said that having the amendments in place will help to restore accountability to the Navajo Nation-owned company.

The amendments took effect on Oct. 6 when Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) signed the Council resolution. To view the resolution and the amended federal charter, please click [here](#).

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