



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo leaders commend the success of NTEC-BISTI at unveiling of new locomotives at Navajo Mine



PHOTO: Speaker LoRenzo Bates and Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. with officials from Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Bisti Fuels Co., and mine employees at Navajo Mine on Aug. 23, 2017.

NENAHNEZAD, N.M. – Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) and Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K’ai’Bii’To, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) on Wednesday, spoke at an event hosted by the Navajo Transitional Energy Company to unveil two new locomotives that deliver coal from Navajo Mine to the Four Corners Power Plant. NTEC received the new locomotives in early July from General Electric, replacing three outdated electric locomotives that were previously used.

Speaking before NTEC-Bisti officials and several dozen Navajo Mine employees, Speaker Bates described the new acquisitions as a sign of progress for NTEC, which is a Navajo-owned enterprise that was created through legislation that was passed by the Navajo Nation Council to purchase the Navajo Mine – the first coal mine owned by any North American tribe.

“I want to thank all of the employees that make this mine function day-to-day, which has led us to this point today,” said Speaker Bates. “Moving forward, there are challenges due to the

competitive energy market and regulations. It is the responsibility of us as leaders to find a balance that allows us to use our coal resources while also incorporating renewable energy.”

Speaker Bates added that NTEC’s investment in new equipment is not only a sign of progress, but it is also a sign that the Navajo-owned company is planning for the long-term.

Delegate Slim, who serves as a shareholder representative for NTEC, said he is proud of employees and officials for their success in owning and operating the first tribally owned coal mine in North American.

“It is good to see us taking ownership of resources and having control over our land,” said Delegate Slim. “I see this as a starting point for our future generations who will be more educated and help to advance this venture.”

NTEC-Bisti officials also highlighted reclamation efforts, which have increased under the new ownership. They stated that the transition to new ownership has allowed the company to reclaim mined areas to levels that exceed federal standards and requirements. The company has also worked to improve reclaimed areas that were mined prior to the implementation of federal laws that established reclamation standards.



PHOTO: One of two new locomotives recently purchased by NTEC to be used at Navajo Mine.

“The new locomotives are a symbol of new ownership of the mine, and a symbol of the new operators. The diesel locomotives will create a safer environment for Navajo Mine. By removing the catenary system, we removed the overhead power line and allows for better maintenance of the railroad track. Safety is a primary concern for us,” stated NTEC CEO Clark Moseley in a statement provided by NTEC.

According to NTEC, the new locomotives meet the federal EPA’s stringent Tier 4 emission standards and weigh approximately 426,000 pounds and are capable of producing nearly 4,500 horsepower each.

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