

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0380-19

SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay Jr.

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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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0380-19

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.

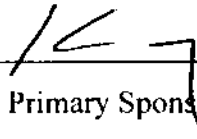
**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing
committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed
resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 0388
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 12/29/19
Eligible for Action: 12/30/19

Resources & Development Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—First Year, 2019

3 INTRODUCED BY

4
5 
6 Primary Sponsor Roe Allen Begay Jr

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8 TRACKING NO. 0380-19

9
10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND
12 NAABIK'İYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
13 APPROVING THE URANIUM CLEAN-UP POSITION STATEMENT

14
15 **Section One. Authority**

- 16 A. The Navajo Nation established the Resources and Development Committee ("RDC")
17 as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered RDC with
18 oversight of land, environmental protection and cultural resources and authority to
19 review and recommend resolutions to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and Navajo Nation
20 Council to accomplish or impact the Committee purpose. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9),
21 500 (C), 501 (B)(4)(a) (2015).
- 22 B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation
23 Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to
24 review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal and state
25 departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve the Navajo
26 People and the Navajo Nation through intergovernmental relationships between the
27 Navajo Nation and such departments. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701
28 (A)(7).
- 29 C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
30 102 (A).

1 **Section Two. Findings**

2 A. The Uranium Clean-up Position Statement, attached as **Exhibit A**, states "Uranium
3 mining on the Navajo Nation has devastated both our lands and our way of life as
4 Diné people. The impact has not only been physical, but also spiritual and emotional
5 as well."

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

11 C. The Navajo Nation Uranium Clean-up Position Statement is organized in the
12 following manner:

- 13 1. The Legacy of Uranium Mining on the Navajo Nation;
14 2. The Navajo Nation's Position on Abandoned Uranium Mine Clean-up; and
15 3. Former Mill Sites on the Navajo Nation.

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

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

22
23 **Section Three. Approval**

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