



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Speaker Damon, 24th Navajo Nation Council coordinate 480 tons of Navajo Mine coal deliveries to Navajo Chapters



PHOTO: On Friday, Jan. 31, nearly 480 tons of Navajo Mine coal was transported to 24 Navajo chapters across the Navajo Nation through the Navajo Coal Chapter Project. The project was supported by the Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, Bisti Fuels, and the Native American Coal Corporation.

FRUITLAND, N.M. — Chapters across the Navajo Nation received over 480 tons of Navajo Mine coal on Friday, Jan. 31, as part of the Navajo Coal Chapter Project coordinated by Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

“At our most recent agency council meetings, Navajo chapter leadership described the need for better access to heat resources after the closure of the Kayenta Coal Mine. We immediately acted to bring together available resources to deliver over 480 tons of coal to our elders and families in our neediest communities,” said Speaker Damon.

Over the past three weeks, Office of the Speaker staff reached out to the Navajo Transitional Energy Company’s Community Heating Resource Program to begin working to expand the number of chapters the program serves.

“We are pleased with the amount of coal we have given out to the Navajo people. We realize that coal is still a viable heating resource on the Navajo Nation. Whereas running water and electricity are amenities that are undeveloped in many communities, coal remains an important heating source for many families on the Navajo Nation. We want to do our part



PHOTO: 22 hauling trucks lined up at the Navajo Mine Area 3 bulk distribution site to receive up to 20 tons of coal each for delivery to 24 Navajo chapters Friday morning, Jan. 31. Two trucks made two separate trips.

to help the elderly, children and families stay warm this winter,” said NTEC CEO Clark Moseley.

“In the past, we’ve had 28 chapters that have been part of the program,” said Native American Coal Corporation Community Relations Manager Andy Hawkins. “This year, we’re now up to 85 chapters who are here picking up coal out of the 110.”

The Office of the Speaker staff coordinated with each member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council to identify a chapter within their respective districts that do not currently receive coal through the NTEC resource program. The selected chapter was identified as a high priority through a combination of remoteness, elderly population, and community membership factors.

In total, 24 chapters received coal deliveries on Friday. Chapters will distribute coal to community members with special emphasis on serving Navajo elders.

Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, who was onsite at the Navajo Mine Area 3 for the project kickoff, said, “The need in our communities is there. We know how much of a hardship it is when Navajo elders can’t go to Kayenta Mine anymore. With this pilot project,

we’re trying to make it easier for them to stay warm through the rest of the winter.”

“The chapters served under the expansion of the program with support from the Navajo Nation are as far away as Birdsprings and Tuba City,” said Legislative Staff Assistant Melinda Arviso-Ciocco.

Staff also reached out to the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority to assist the Office of the Speaker with the logistics of transporting and delivering the Navajo Mine coal. In addition to NTEC, Iiná Bá, Inc, Rockspring Transport, and Ralph Miller Trucking provided the transport and delivery service for the distribution project.

NTEC’s own trucks delivered coal to the Whitecone and Low Mountain Chapters. Iiná Bá, Inc. transported coal to Red Rock, Oaksprings, Lake Valley, and Burnham. Rockspring Transport made deliveries to Tuba City, Teec Nos Pos, Shiprock, Coppermine, Dennehotso, Sanostee, and Oljato. Ralph Miller Trucking delivered to Ramah, Black Mesa, Tohatchi, Houck, Crystal, Torreon, Kinlichee, Birdsprings, Mariano Lake, Rough Rock, and Chinle.

“The Navajo Engineering Construction Authority was honored to be a part of the Na-



PHOTO: Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown picks up and inspects a chunk of coal from the Navajo Mine bulk pile delivered to Navajo chapters on Friday.



PHOTO: 20 tons of coal was delivered to Torreon Chapter on Friday. Staff coordinated with chapter officials on delivery locations at 24 chapters across the Navajo Nation.

vajo Chapter Coal Project. As an enterprise of the Navajo Nation, we have a duty to serve and provide the best of our abilities to the Navajo People. We would also like to thank the other Navajo businesses and enterprises that helped in making this project successful. Thank you,” said NECA Warehouse Manager Tom Chee.

“Every region across the Nation is experiencing a shortage of coal alongside an increase in local prices and an overall decrease in coal quality,” said Speaker Damon. He commended NTEC for providing Navajo families with coal from Navajo Mine. He said the new pilot project will prepare Navajo elders and others for the coming winter storms.

“Depending on how the chapter distributes it, a delivery can help anywhere between 400 and 500 people with heating coal,” said Hawkins. Through further coordination with the Navajo Nation over the next nine months, NTEC and Bisti Fuels plan to establish regional distribution points as a further expansion of the Community Heating Resource Program.

Throughout the day, chapter staff were on standby as the delivery trucks pulled in and unloaded the loads of coal. Delegate Carl Slater was onsite at the Rough Rock Chapter when the delivery came. “I want to thank our chapter officials for working with us to make this pilot project successful,” said Delegate Slater.

The Navajo Coal Chapter Project was supported through matching contributions from the Office of the Speaker, NECA, NTEC, Bisti Fuels, and the North American Coal Company. The project was developed within the Office of the Speaker’s community involvement and coordination functions.

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