



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee supports the appointment of Seraphina A. Nez to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission

TOHAJILEE, N.M. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee considered Legislation No. 0016-17, confirming the appointment of Seraphina A. Nez to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission. Nez is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is from Tachee/Blue Gap, Ariz.

In April 2015, the Navajo Nation Council approved and established the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission. The purpose of the commission is to study and reach conclusions about the impacts of uranium mining and uranium processing on the Navajo Nation, and to make recommendations to the President and Council for policies, laws, and regulations to address uranium impacts.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) stated that Seraphina A. Nez would serve as a knowledgeable and compassionate member representing the Central Agency on the commission.

“I am very confident that Seraphina A. Nez would be a great addition to the commission. She knows about the impacts of uranium in the Nation and she resides within a community that is impacted by uranium. She has the knowledge and passion to address the critical issues of uranium,” stated Delegate Begay.

According to the legislation, the commission must consist of six commission members from each of the six regions affected by past uranium mining and one additional commission member to represent the at-large community. Each commission member would serve on the commission for five years.

In support of the legislation, Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) said the commission would appreciate Seraphina A. Nez’s contribution and expertise.

“I met her a couple of times and I was very impressed with her knowledge regarding uranium. She is familiar with the commission and she is able to communicate with community members regarding uranium issues,” stated Delegate Perry. “Also, I support this legislation because Tachee/Blue Gap also provided a supporting resolution for her appointment.”

The legislation included a resolution dated March 2016 from Tachee/Blue Gap Chapter to support the appointment of Seraphina A. Nez to the commission. The Tachee/Blue Gap community has several abandoned uranium mine sites and her appointment would allow her to advocate and provide recommendations on behalf of the community, according to the chapter resolution.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0016-17 with a 3-0 vote. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee will serve as the final authority for the bill.

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