



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee celebrates reclamation and land transfer of historic mine site



The Resources and Development Committee attended the Navajo Transitional Energy Company mining reclamation ceremony.

NENAHNEZAD, N.M. — On August 8, members of the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) attended a ceremonial event hosted by Navajo Technical Energy Company (NTEC) to celebrate the reclamation of a former mine site and the transfer of the land back to the Navajo Nation.

The event, held on the reclaimed site in Nenahnezad, honored decades of work, partnership, and commitment to restoring 33,600 acres of land that had been granted.

The celebration brought together members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Buu Nygren, and representatives from the RDC. RDC Chair Brenda Jesus, Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson, and Council Delegates Rickie Nez and Danny Simpson were recognized for their leadership in guiding the process to completion.

Chair Jesus reflected on the day's cultural and historic significance, noting the values of *hózhó*—harmony, peace, and balance—that guided the reclamation efforts. "This is more than a land transfer—it is a restoration of opportunity, a renewal of connection to the land, and a reaffirmation of our commitment to future generations," said Chair Jesus. "We will continue working with President Nygren and our partners to ensure this land is returned to the chapter for community use, grazing, and sustainable development."

Council Delegate Rickie Nez emphasized the importance of partnership in achieving the transfer. "When we work as a team, we accomplish what others think is impossible," Nez said. "This land represents the prayers of past leaders and the determination of our people. We have shown that by standing together, we can honor our history while building a stronger future."

The reclaimed land has undergone extensive revegetation and restoration efforts, gaining approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management. RDC expressed hope that the site will one day see livestock grazing and renewable energy projects, including potential solar and polysilicon initiatives, to bring jobs and economic growth to the community.

President Nygren commended NTEC and all parties involved for fulfilling their commitments. The ceremony also recognized contributions from BHP, Arizona Public Service, the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, and numerous community members who played a crucial role in the lengthy reclamation process.

The land's return is not an ending, but the start of a new chapter for Nenahnezad and the Navajo Nation.

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