



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee discusses Navajo Mine Plant Lease renewal



The Resources and Development Committee met with Navajo Transitional Energy Company to discuss a Mine Plant Lease renewal.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) held a leadership meeting to receive an update on Navajo Transitional Energy Company's (NTEC) Mine Plant Lease renewal related to the Navajo Mine's coal handling and processing facilities near the Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP) near Fruitland, N.M., on the Navajo Nation.

The meeting brought together representatives from the Navajo Minerals Department, General Land Department (GLDD), Division of Natural Resources, and the Navajo Department of Justice.

"The Mine Plant Lease renewal has been underway for nearly four years," said RDC Chairwoman Brenda Jesus. "The RDC prioritized this leadership meeting to bring stakeholders together and address matters affecting the renewal process."

According to NTEC, the Navajo Mine provides high-paying jobs for more than 600 employees, 86 percent of whom are Navajo. The operation also contributes more than \$100 million annually to the Navajo Nation through taxes, royalties, and wages, supporting approximately 35 percent of the Navajo Nation General Fund.

The Navajo Nation has adopted its own Business Site Leasing regulations, General Leasing regulations, and Tribal Authorization regulations to help streamline lease and rights-of-way procedures for tribal entities.

NTEC officials said the renewal process continues to require extensive administrative review.

The Mine Plant Lease, a surface lease authorizing coal handling and processing facilities near the Four Corners Power Plant, expired in April 2021, and NTEC subsequently received holdover authorization from the RDC. Since then, NTEC has worked with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and GLDD to negotiate the lease document and submit the renewal application.

NTEC officials reported that the renewal application entered the 164-review process in March. The submission also includes a request to renew a 4-inch potable water line that serves the Navajo Mine facilities.

Consultations among the RDC, NTEC, and GLDD have continued since 2023 regarding a Tribal Access Authorization for a transmission corridor. The current authorization remains under internal review.

The RDC, NTEC, and GLDD will reconvene within 30 days to assess progress on the Mine Plant Lease renewal.

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