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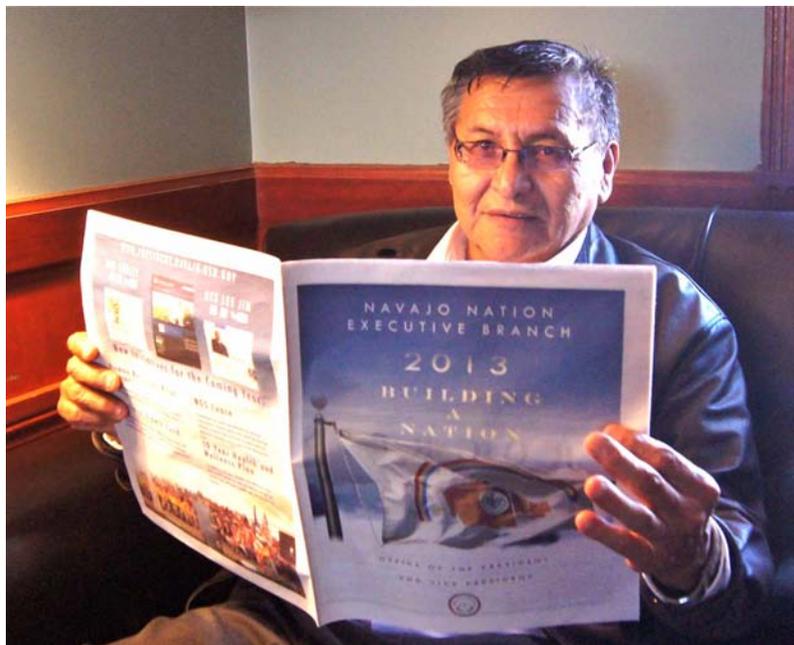
For Immediate Release
January 30, 2012

President Shelly Releases Two-Year Progress Report

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly authorized the release a two year accomplishment report scheduled to be inserted and distributed in the Navajo Times newspaper on Jan. 31.

“I am pleased to present this report to the Navajo Nation to let them know that the Shelly/Jim administration has been hard at work for the people of the Navajo Nation. We have completed many projects, but we have many more to complete. The Navajo people elected the Shelly/Jim administration because we promised change and this report shows them the changes we have made,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly was inaugurated on Jan. 11, 2011 as the first Navajo president from New Mexico.



The Office of the President and Vice President has copies available for the public and the report is available online.

To see the report online or for more information, visit www.president.navajo-nsn.gov or [www.facebook.president.benshelly](https://www.facebook.com/president.benshelly).

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For Immediate Release
January 30, 2012

President Shelly Assures BHP Negotiations Will Continue for Navajo Mine

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, during a Wednesday morning meeting with BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal President Pat Risner, said owning a coal mine could be beneficial to the Navajo Nation and to continue the due diligence process to explore the acquisition.

“I think this could be a good acquisition for the Navajo Nation. But as President of the Navajo Nation, I must be sure that this is a good investment. After being informed of the process to now, I am comfortable with the progress our negotiations team has made. Lets continue to explore this proposal more and make sure this is good for the Navajo people,” President Shelly said during the hour-long meeting.

Both parties agreed that the due diligence investigation should continue and both are interested in further pursuing a possible deal that could sell Navajo Mine to the Navajo Nation.

“We have to protect the jobs at the mine,” President Shelly said. The mine employs more than 400 people.

President Shelly responded to criticism about comments he made after he presented his State of Nation Address to the Navajo Council on Monday.

President Shelly told the Council that he didn’t have enough information about the possible acquisition to support the transaction in its current state.

“I like the concept of acquiring the mine, but I didn’t have the information that I was looking for. I needed to see how this would be good for the Navajo people in the long term. Information has been shared with me and I like what I see right now. Lets continue negotiating with BHP,” President Shelly said to Risner.

President Shelly said he was concerned about the long-term investment of the mine, which includes, equipment, buildings, railroads and other infrastructure. President Shelly said he wanted to know how eventual repairs would be paid for.

In October, BHP- Billiton and Arizona Public Service, primary owners of Four Corners Power Plant, presented a proposal to the Navajo Nation that would essentially sell Navajo Mine to the Navajo Nation.

In December, President Shelly signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Risner to enter into negotiations to acquire Navajo Mine.

“Acquiring a coal mine is a giant step for the Navajo Nation. However, we must become more certain as to the benefits the Navajo Nation will receive. There are many issues to consider, but right now, we agreed to continue the due diligence investigation,” President Shelly said.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2013

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Navajo Nation Council requests for better communication to the Navajo people on area water shortages, realistic timelines for mainline repairs and recovery

WINDOW ROCK – At the conclusion of the first day of the Winter Council Session on Monday, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority provided an update report, at the request of the Navajo Nation Council, on the status of its operations to repair broken waterlines and restore water services to a number of Navajo communities that have been affected by water shortages due to sub-zero temperatures in most recent weeks.

“This is a public health issue,” said Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch'izhi), who made the request to add the NTUA report to the agenda, along with a corresponding report by the Navajo Department of Emergency Management.

Delegate BeGaye stated the intent of the report's introduction was to bring broader awareness on the issue to delegates who may not have been thoroughly informed since President Ben Shelly issued a declaration of emergency last Friday because of the water shortages.

Rex Kontz, NTUA deputy general manager, said nearly 1,900 reports have been recorded by the utility authority by Navajo people who have called into to notify them of both household and area-wide water shortages and outages.

In part, what caused the water shortages, Kontz explained, is that sustained sub-zero temperatures allowed frost to penetrate deeper into the ground than normal. This caused some water mainlines buried four-feet below ground level to freeze, which “is very unusual for our area,” Kontz said.

As temperatures began to rise, mainlines thawed while the soil shifted to changing temperatures, and water lines broke, giving way to leakages. Kontz said this caused the loss of substantial amounts of water from being delivered to residences and businesses.

Council Delegate Duane Tsinigine (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai Bii'Tó, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) expressed displeasure with NTUA's report, stating that it was the same report that was given before the Law and Order Committee last week.

Kontz had reported that the authority had been working with several Navajo Nation departments in a “recovery state” to fix and thaw frozen mainlines, assess damages, and repair broken lines. Part of this work included the hauling of water bottles to affected homes.

Delegate Tsinigine said due to the issuance of the emergency declaration, it “means that money is now available, and all I'm hearing is that you're using bottled water. This report does not stand well with me on a humanitarian issue.”

Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) requested for NTUA to provide realistic timelines to affected communities on when they expect water to be restored, stating that he was especially concerned for elders and people with disabilities who would appreciate notification so as to properly coordinate with their families for assistance if water outages are expected to be on-going.

Several delegates, including Delegates Leonard Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dził, Tsé Si ání) and Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreón, Whitehorse Lake) prompted NTUA to develop better methods of communication to notify customers when service outages are expected.

Delegate Curley specifically called for the implementation of a strengthened public information campaign, through informational publications and radio announcements, in which customers could be informed of what to do in conditions where water freezes.

“From my understanding of the situation, we’re going to have all these emergencies across the Navajo Nation, and only a few workers to cover the entire area. Places like Lupton and Houck are not going to get services right away,” said Delegate Curley. “And so, the folks there are wondering what they can do and what their chapters can do to help alleviate situations.

Some delegates were critical of the state of emergency that was placed on the water shortage issue, expressing that when a larger lens is placed on the situation, some Navajos would argue that the issue of frozen pipes is a minor issue in context of those who have been living without running water.

Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) said he did not know how or whether repairs and restoration of mainlines could be sped up.

“This is nature, itself, taking its course. And we’re just part of the process, getting used to all these conveniences. Sometimes we have to heat up water on the stove, and do with washcloth or bottled water,” said Delegate Smith. “I’m out of water, I don’t have any water. I’ll do what I need to do to get water. So we’re back to fundamentals.”

Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) questioned what should be defined as an emergency.

“I would say eighty-percent of households on the Navajo Nation are without running water. Had I known that that constitutes an emergency, I would say that we have been in the state of emergency forever,” Delegate Benally said.

Many of Navajo citizens must haul their own water, and many of them from scarce sources and potentially unsafe sources, said Delegate Benally.

This is an issue the Council is trying to address, she continued, but in most cases, people will continue to obtain water from potentially unsafe sources “because there is no other way for them to get water.” To Delegate Benally, that situation constituted an emergency.

In the meantime, the Navajo Department of Emergency Management reported that they are currently setting up emergency operations centers and are assessing the needs of affected communities.

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NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE

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Bipartisan Disaster Relief Bill Approved

Tue, 01/29/2013 - 12:27pm

Tribes To Be Treated Like States, Navajo President Encouraged

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Bipartisan Disaster Relief Bill Approved

Tribes To Be Treated Like States, Navajo President Encouraged

WASHINGTON—In a 62-36 vote, the Senate last night approved HR 152, a \$50.5 billion package aimed at providing relief and assisting the recovery of communities that were devastated by last October's Hurricane Sandy.

Included in the measure are provisions that change federal disaster laws to treat tribes as state, rather than local governments.

Having actively encouraged the changes since early last year through meetings and letters with congressional and administration officials and staff, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly expressed his thanks to Congress for this bold affirmation of tribal sovereignty.

"The Navajo Nation has had a distinct government since before the United States gained its independence from a colonial power. The United States is committed by law and treaty to the self-governance of the Navajo Nation, and working with us on a government-to-government basis. The passage of this bill is a welcoming sign of the blossoming recognition nationally of the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation as a co-equal government within the United States. I appreciate the bipartisan team in Congress that approved this bill, and the bold leadership of the Obama Administration and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate in endorsing the proposal".

After the president signs the bill into law, FEMA will hold consultations on the successful implementation of the measure in the coming months.

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THE NAVAJO NATION



BEN SHELLY PRESIDENT
REX LEE JIM VICE PRESIDENT

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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NNTV5 will be providing live webcast of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council Winter Session.

Window Rock, AZ – The Navajo Nation operated television station NNTV5 will be webcasting the 22nd Navajo Nation Council-Winter Session. This is a collective effort in partnership with Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology to bring web stream programming to the Navajo Nation. NNTV5 would like to inform the public that the live webcast will begin at 10am beginning January 28, 2013 until the conclusion of the session.

The public who are interested in viewing the Navajo Nation Council Winter Session can do so by visiting the following link: www.ustream.tv/channel/navajo-nation-council.



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For Immediate Release
January 28, 2013

President Shelly Delivers Message of New Projects for Economic Prosperity



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly delivered a message outlining projects to create economic prosperity for the Navajo Nation. He presented his ideas during the State of the Nation address to the Navajo Nation Council during the first day of their Winter Session.

“We must redefine our economic principles. We can no longer sit in the passenger’s seat of receiving royalties and taxes, while others dictate our direction. I am proposing new initiatives that will broaden our outlook and create new opportunities to benefit our people,” President Shelly said during his 20-minute speech.

President Shelly informed the Navajo Council about budgetary issues in at the federal level. In September last year, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government functioning, but the funding levels remained as the same as the previous year. President Shelly said the Navajo Nation has to prepare for potential budget cuts that could be as high as 11 percent for some federally funded programs when the Continuing Resolution expires in March.

President Shelly said one of the projects he plans to recommend to Council this spring is the Narbona Growth Fund. The fund would allow businesses formed under the Fund access to tax breaks. Also, the Fund would create tax revenue for the Navajo Nation, and the Fund would place the Navajo people as preferred shareholders, while the Navajo Nation government would serve as common stockholders.

“New companies formed under the Narbona Growth Fund will gain access to tax breaks only offered under the fund. The Navajo Nation will benefit from this new stream of tax revenue,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly introduced another initiative that would build a railroad port.

“We are working side by side with Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to build a trans-loading rail facility, the first of its kind in the southwest. The port authority will create an opportunity to load rail cars and ship the products on the Trans-Con railway,” President Shelly said.

Another project that is scheduled to open next month in Fort Defiance, Ariz., is a solar panel manufacturing assembly facility that when fully operational would create more than 400 jobs.

“The solar panels make renewable energy a reality, just one of several areas we are making good in our energy commitment,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly also called for a change in drilling lease processes for Navajo Oil and Gas Company, which is an enterprise of the Navajo Nation. To explore for new oil or gas, the approval of a lease could take up to three years. President Shelly proposed to grant Navajo Oil and Gas the option of choosing areas they would like to explore.

“Navajo Oil and Gas has taken the lead role in our oil and gas production. We have an obligation to them. Their success is vital as oil and gas remains a dominant force in the global economy,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly also proposed that changes be made to the Possessory Interest Tax to help new businesses compete. He asked that the tax be lowered for new businesses and to phase in the tax over a three-year period.

“We can greatly assist their efforts by amending the Possessory Interest Tax to alleviate the tax burden they face during their start up and development years,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly also asked the Navajo Council to invest \$1.5 million to develop a Navajo Land Department title plant.

“We have been working for the last five years to develop a title plant at our Land Department to assume total control of how we record titles, homesite leases, grazing

permits, businesses leases, communication towers and all forms and uses of land,”
President Shelly.

President Shelly closed his speech by outlining some misconstrued information the Office of the Controller has told Council committees in the past couple of months about federal and state monies that were reverted.

He said that \$41 million has been reported as reverted, but the money was actually reimbursement funding.

“To say that \$41 million has gone back to the respective governments is completely inaccurate,” President Shelly said.

Reports have indicated that the Navajo Nation has reverted about \$124 million in federal and state funding, but President Shelly said the number is misleading. He said that \$50 million of the funds have yet to be drawn down, including \$33 million to complete public safety facilities in Kayenta and Tuba City.

“The Controller imposed limitations to keep programs from using their full funded amount from the states or federal government,” President Shelly said.

The Navajo Council voted to receive the President’s report in an 11 – 6 vote.

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BEN SHELLY PRESIDENT
REX LEE JIM VICE PRESIDENT

THE STATE OF THE NATION

President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim

Presented to the
22ND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

JANUARY 28, 2013

*M*r. Speaker, members of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council, Mr. Vice President, First Lady, relatives, chapter officials, staff, family and friends, I want to say thank you for the opportunity to present the state of the Navajo Nation address. I want to recognize visiting federal, state, county and tribal leaders here with us today. It is my honor again to come before you and deliver the state of the Navajo Nation: To share our progress, accomplishments gained, the continuing work in government, and challenges we offer in this winter session.

One week ago, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, our country swore in President Barack Obama for the second time. As President Obama's addressed the Nation, he pledged to the country we would "move forward together."

This is an idea I have talked about many times in these Chambers, and today I relay the same message of unity. As leaders, we must show our people by actions how we can work as one unit.



They put their trust in our abilities as we begin this New Year, and with the new snow this morning, let us work as one for the strength of our people.

We are in one of the most challenging times of our country's history. The country is in debt unlike any before. The entire public debt is \$16 trillion. To give you an idea of how much money that is, if we were to spread out 16 trillion one dollar bills, we could cover the states Florida, Delaware and Rhode Island. Making matters more difficult, this past fiscal year, the United States government outspent its revenues by \$1.6 trillion in just one year.

For the past year, I have been talking about the possibilities of reduced federal funding, and we are in the midst of that now. Last September, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 2013. The resolution will expire in March. At that time, we will be halfway into our fiscal year. The uncertainty of cuts to our programs that deliver direct services is cause for concern, which is why I have advocated for fiscal responsibility.

The Navajo Nation Washington Office advised of potential across the board program budget cuts. Some federal programs could see cuts as high as 11 percent.

It is important to share this with you so we can continue working together to protect our people. As we look ahead, our own



revenues may be affected in the next fiscal cycle. We could lose as much as \$20 million for FY 2014.

A year ago, I recommended that we save \$20 million in the Undesignated Unreserved Fund Balance to help us in times of reduced funding. Though the \$20 million has been greatly reduced, we must still practice fiscal constraint in these unpredictable times.

Having this in mind, we must redefine our economic principles. We can no longer sit in the passenger's seat of receiving royalties and taxes, while others dictate our direction. I am proposing new initiatives that will broaden our outlook and create new opportunities to benefit our people.

This Spring, we will recommend legislation that will create the Narbona Growth Fund, a holding company that gives the Nation the means to create an unlimited number of companies and investment opportunities.

We are building the fund as a corporate structure so the Navajo people are the preferred stockholders. The Navajo Nation will hold common stock. All enrolled Navajo members will be preferred stockholders, just like corporate stockholders.

New companies formed under the Narbona Growth Fund will gain access to tax breaks only offered under the fund. The Navajo Nation will benefit from this new stream of tax revenue.



We will recommend this initiative before the Naa'bi'iyati' Committee by spring with goals to have the full Council vote on the measure in the Summer Session.

Another project we are beginning for our economic future is a port authority. We are working side by side with Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to build a trans-loading rail facility, the first of its kind in the southwest. The port authority will create an opportunity to load rail cars and ship the products on the Trans-Con railway. The project is near ready for our investment committee review and, upon approval, construction will begin this Summer. Burlington Northern Santa Fe plans to invest \$5 million in this first stage of our Navajo Port Authority.

Members of the Council, we aimed to make technology a priority. Last month we opened the first data center on the Navajo Nation in Shiprock through our infrastructure technology plan. It is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act we began in 2009, as we compiled our own stimulus recovery plan. We are now open for business with a hi-tech data center in a secure environment. It is the first Network Operating Center, which created 10 new technology jobs. We anticipate more jobs to be created.



Our new center will serve as the HUB for our new Long Term Evolution technology for voice and data needs. In other words, it serves wireless phones, iPads, laptops, or any mobile communication device. Moreover, the data center will be open for companies across the country that want to store their data, or mirror their large computer servers. Welcome to the technology age. We have just crossed over into the Information and Communications Technologies era here on the Navajo Nation in joining the rest of the world.

Part of our redefining our economic mindset means a new outlook on energy. Next month we are opening the doors of a solar panel manufacturing-assembly facility in Fort Defiance that when fully operational will employ more than 400 workers. A Navajo-owned and operated business will produce thin-film solar panels around the clock. The first shipment of panels have been ordered and when the order is filled, the panels will be destined for Singapore. Meanwhile we will sell our Navajo made panels to markets in Mexico and the United States. The solar panels make renewable energy a reality, just one of several areas we are making good in our energy commitment.



As I speak of redefining our economic agenda, we must also work to create opportunities for some of our longer standing energy developments.

Navajo Oil and Gas has taken the lead role in our oil and gas production. We have an obligation to them. Their success is vital as oil and gas remains a dominant force in the global economy. Leases to drill exploration wells takes three years and more to be approved, which only hinders the company's chance at growth. We are going to propose a plan that can cut that the lease approval time by more than half by granting them standard terms and allow them more latitude to pick and choose areas for exploration. This plan will stay consistent with responsible exploration and have proper oversight. Let's remove unnecessary restrictions that impose limitations. More timely explorations will increase oil production easily adding more jobs, more revenue, and commensurate tax increases.

As we continue to build economic strength, we must also redefine how we tax businesses. Years ago, we implemented a tax and revenue structure when coal mining companies would not sit at the table to negotiate. We added a Possessory Interest Tax to our law, mostly to leverage an equitable revenue stream. This gave us the ability to exercise our sovereignty.



Times have changed as our nation has grown. More Navajo businesses are entering into renewable energy development, taking advantage of federal tax breaks and incentives. We can greatly assist their efforts by amending the Possessory Interest Tax to alleviate the tax burden they face during their start up and development years. We can find other ways to make it work—a solution for our businesses—and for our tax revenue generation. Our businesses need help so they can become a sustained contributor to the economic health of the Navajo Nation.

We are finishing up the proposed Navajo Nation General Leasing Regulations for your consideration and approval. Congress granted us power to lease trust land without federal approval. We have been working for the last five years to develop a title plant at our Land Department to assume total control of how we record titles, homesite leases, grazing permits, businesses leases, communication towers and all forms and uses of land. With the use of this new system, we will be able to use technology to upload and download information, with chapters having immediate access. Even individual Navajos will have the ability to use their smart phones to access, upload, and download homesite lease and grazing permit information. I am in full support of the supplemental budget



request of \$1.5 million to implement the Navajo Land Department title plant.

Members of the Navajo Nation Council, you have heard and read many reports about federal dollars being returned to the United States Treasury. Reversion of Funds became a popular phrase last year. There have been so many different dollar amounts stated, some even as high as \$124 million. It's our responsibility to examine these discrepancies more closely. We have found that the Office of the Controller has not filed fiscal reports to the federal government on behalf of tribal programs. Our Historic Preservation Department has lost more than \$600,000 due to a report filed five years late. The National Park Service is now declaring our Historic Preservation Department *ineligible* for funding this year. Cash deficits have gone un-reconciled since 2002, the Navajo Housing Authority has not reimbursed the Navajo Nation some \$7 million, and federal dollars have not been drawn down.

The Controller describes \$41 million as closed accounts for fiscal years 2008 through 2012, and states the funds have gone back to the states or federal government. Yet the fact is, many of these funds are cost reimbursements. The Navajo Nation spends Navajo Nation funds and awaits either the state or federal government to



reimburse the cost. To say that \$41 million has gone back to the respective governments is completely inaccurate.

Here's another discrepancy: Of the \$124 million cash deficit, the Controller has not drawn down some \$50 million. We learned that \$33 million is for the construction of public safety facilities in Tuba City and Kayenta.

The Controller's office is already understaffed, and yet he eliminated 10 positions this fiscal year. There are no internal procedures. Programs are prevented from using the full fiscal year for spending, a limitation the Controller has imposed, above the federal government. The Controller imposed limitations to keep programs from using their full funded amount from the states or federal government. On Friday, I just learned that 198 of our staff at Social Services were not paid. This occurs regularly.

Since 1989, changes in the government that were meant to be temporary have impaired our ability to govern efficiently. With your assistance in making changes to the law I will have the ability to make important fixes and take responsible control of these fiscal discrepancies.

On behalf of Vice President Rex Lee Jim and I, and the executive branch of government, I thank you for receiving these challenges



and the state of our nation. We support you in this winter session as you deliberate on the important work before you.

Let's work together this year to help our Nation grow stronger. Our people deserve strong leadership.

May the Holy People guide you with wisdom and determination for the Navajo Nation. Ahe'hee'.



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For Immediate Release
January 25, 2013

President Shelly Signs Emergency Declaration for Frozen Water Systems

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed a resolution declaring a state of emergency for the Navajo Nation because of water shortages.

“I am signing this resolution because we need to access emergency services to help our people who have been without water. We have waterlines that need repair, water storage containers that need to be replenished, and we need man power to help repairs the water systems that have been damaged,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly signed the resolution late Friday afternoon after the Commission on Emergency Management voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

As many as 2,000 homes in the Window Rock area have been affected by waterline breakage due to the subfreezing temperatures experienced for the past several weeks. Temperatures have been as cold as – 25 degrees Fahrenheit during the past few weeks, while only warming into the teens.

Due to the cold temperatures, large waterlines have been freezing. As Navajo Tribal Utility Authority unfroze the large waterlines, the pressure created from the water broke other smaller lines that lead to homes and residences.

Frozen and broken waterlines, however, have compounded into low water pressure issues for residents and communities that do have water. Water storage tanks are low due to broken waterlines. The resolution calls for residents to conserve water so water storage containers can replenish themselves and restore water pressure.

“We have always been a resourceful people. Now we need to all come together and conserve water while our water system is repair and our storages are replenished with water. We can do small things like turn off water while we brush our teeth, using towels more than once, or only washing clothing when needed,” President Shelly said.

The resolution allows the Navajo Nation to activate emergency resources to “restore and sustain vital community infrastructure.”

Communities throughout the Navajo Nation have water systems affected by freezing temperatures. Pinedale, Crownpoint, Shiprock, Kayenta, Chinle, Dilkon, and others have all reported water outages or low water pressure.

“I am asking our people to be patient as we tackle this problem,” President Shelly said.

NTUA authorities said that their work crews have been working 15 hours a day and up to 70 hours a week for the past several weeks.

“This resolution allows us to ask for help for extra man power to tackle these water issues that are happening throughout the Navajo Nation,” President Shelly said.

Public Safety Director John Billison said an emergency operations center will be established by early next week.

“We need to make sure our emergency contingency plans are followed and that we have a central command post where we can structurally organize our teams responding to this emergency,” Billison said.

Navajo Engineering and Constructing Authority (NECA) have been assisting NTUA with repairing waterlines. Indian Health Services has allocated resources to help with the emergency.

“We are working together and with other agencies. As we move forward, we are going to work with more agencies to get our people the help they need as we work to bring water back into their homes. We are a resourceful people and we will endure through these times,” President Shelly said.

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NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 23, 2013

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NNHRCs regular meeting set for February 1st

SAINT MICHAELS, Navajo Nation—The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission will meet at 10 a.m., on Friday, February 1, 2013, at its office located at 343 Arizona Highway 264 in the Saint Michaels Professional Bldg. 1, Suite 112, in St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (Arizona) for a regular meeting. The regular meeting is open to the public.

NNHRC advocates for the recognition of Navajo human rights and addresses discriminatory actions against the citizens of the Navajo Nation. For more information, call the NNHRC office at (928) 871-7436 or visit the NNHRC website at www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov.

###

ADOT seeks IGA with Navajo Nation for \$35 million project in Cameron



Navajo Division of Transportation Director listens to a presentation from David Benton, Arizona Department of Transportation Project Manager. ADOT is proposing an IGA with the Navajo Nation for a new \$35 million road project in Cameron. Under terms of the IGA, NDOT would provide maintenance for sidewalks and lighting maintenance for three pedestrian underpasses. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

FLAGSTAFF-The Navajo Division of Transportation met with officials from the Arizona Department of Transportation on Dec. 2012 to discuss construction on U.S. 89 in Cameron.

The group pored over renderings of the proposed underpass access (including lighting) and the roundabout interchange. Unfurled the length of the table was an aerial map of the project site dated 2002.

ADOT requested an intergovernmental agreement with the Navajo Nation to provide maintenance of sidewalks and underpass lighting for the project. The \$35 million project is subsidized by federal funding and ADOT's timeline is to have the project bid-ready by Feb. 2013 to meet federal funding deadlines.

Construction will be from the Junction of U.S. 89 and State Road 64 north to the Colorado River (milepost 463 to 467.1).

Dave Benton, ADOT Project Manager, said the project features two new northbound roadways from SR 64. Plans are to convert existing roadway into the southbound lane.

The corridor will also have

eight-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, which would be maintained by NDOT, according to the IGA.

Construction plans include a roundabout interchange at the intersection of SR 64 and U.S. 89, multiple driveways with three underpasses, and a new bridge structure at the Little Colorado River.

Benton said, "The existing steel truss bridge will be replaced with two new separate concrete girder bridges.

"The bridges are six spans with two columns on each bound that are replacing the existing structure. The historic cable suspension bridge will remain and will continue being utilized for a gas line," he added.

ADOT will be adding or relocating the fence through a major portion of the project to the correct right-of-way location. Benton said the fence is inset toward the roadway and not placed at the correct locations along the right-of-way.

"There were some home site leases that are encroaching into the ADOT easement near the Cameron Chapter House,"

Benton said.

Because of this, development changes were made to mitigate any impacts to those leases, he said.

ADOT plans to offset the fence and move around the home site, including construction of a home retaining wall for safety. The entire corridor will have ADOT lighting, increasing the safety level tremendously.

Benton said the IGA would have NDOT provide maintenance of three pedestrian underpass sidewalks and lighting; and maintenance of sidewalks running south of the Cameron Trading Post to the SR 64 intersection. He underscored roadway lighting was the responsibility of ADOT.

NDOT Director Paulson Chaco said authorization of the IGA would require oversight approval from the Resources and Development Committee of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council and the Naa'bik'iyati' Committee.

"The concern that we have is liability. Unfortunately it's not the chapter that assumes that responsibility, it's the Navajo Nation that assumes that responsibility," Chaco said.

Benton said the project will be built in two phases: Construction of the northbound phase first, and then redevelopment of the existing roadway for the southbound lane.

The project includes demolition of the existing steel truss bridge and construction of a new southbound bridge.

"It's a fiscal year 2013 project. We hope to be bid-ready by February, meaning advertisements soon after," he said. "We're hoping to deliver the project as a whole, that's our intent on entering into an IGA with the Nation."

Steve Boschen, ADOT

Deputy State Engineer, said he would provide NDOT with load calculations for the underpass lighting for the power requirements and cost estimates.

Chuck Gillick, acting director for the ADOT Flagstaff District, said he would check with the City of Flagstaff regarding annual maintenance costs for sidewalks.

Chaco said cost estimates for the lighting and sidewalk maintenance would give NDOT a clearer picture of budget costs for the maintenance agreement that must be crafted in coordination with the IGA.

However, liability was still the main concern for NDOT.

"We've had some situations on Navajo with New Mexico, where we had to pay out on our liabilities on those roads where accidents happened," he said.

Audra Merrick of ADOT Flagstaff District Development reiterated that the highway lighting through the corridor would be the responsibility of ADOT.

Chaco said council delegate Walter Phelps (Birdsprings, Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake) has wrestled over the issue of liability with attorneys from the Navajo Nation Department of Justice for the past year.

Phelps is the sponsor for the IGA legislation.

Chaco explained that NDOT maintenance crews were currently obligated to snow removal duties across the Navajo Nation. The maintenance of sidewalks would be a tertiary consideration, he said, especially with the number of Navajo chapters requesting road maintenance activities.

Coupled with the cost of sweeping the sidewalks at least four times a year, Chaco expressed concerns with funding,

especially when tribal transportation funds have been dwindling in recent years.

ADOT remained adamant on construction of this project for 2013.

“We would love to deliver this project as the entire piece, from an economy of scale perspective and also to benefit the community,” said Boschen.

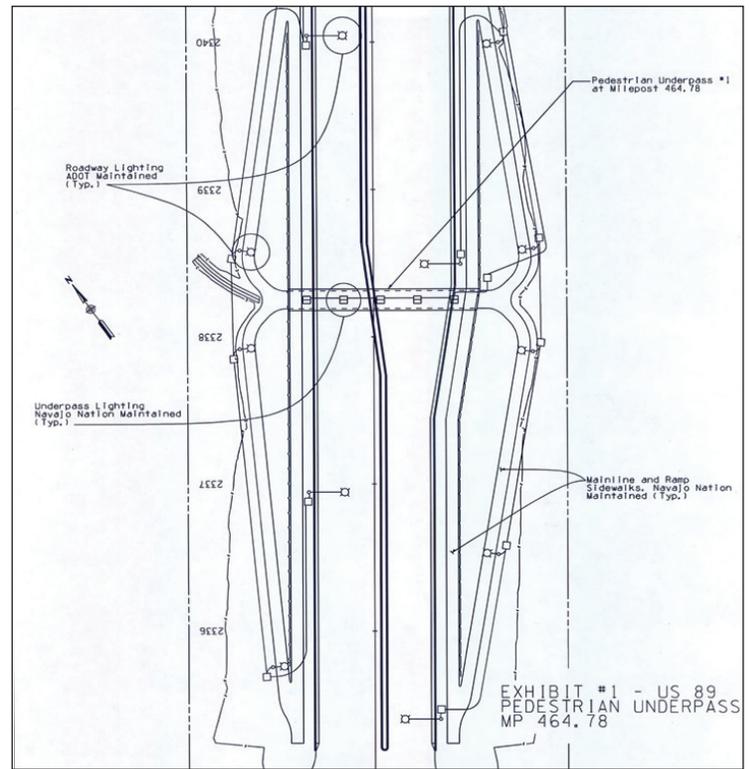
He said one alternative would be to take out the sidewalks, which is undesirable because it would open up the roadway to pedestrians and potential accidents. The other alternative is to scrap the project entirely and

proceed with another project, in order to meet the federal obligation.

“It looks like this is a good project, very impressive for \$35 million,” Chaco said.

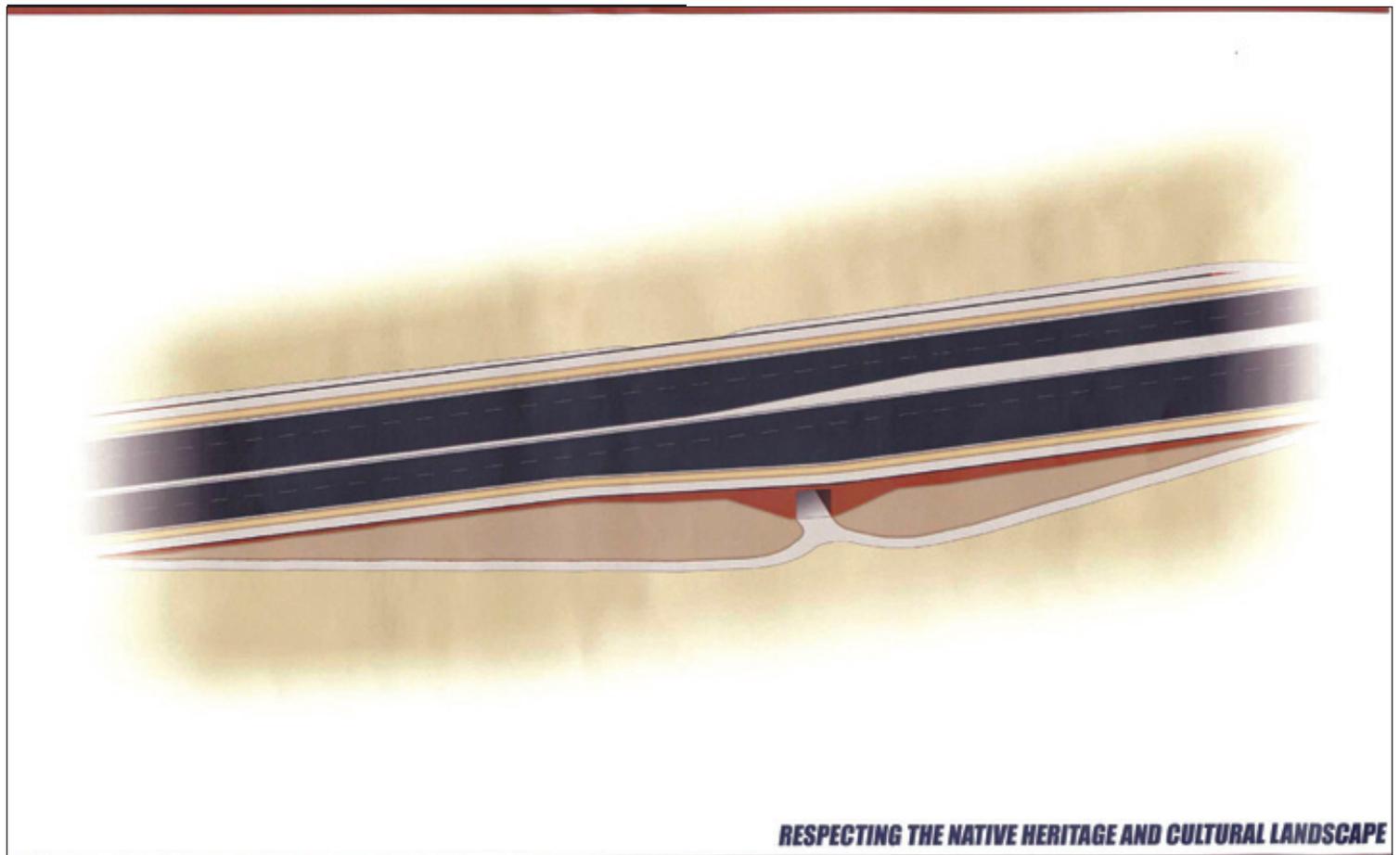
NDOT is currently moving the IGA through the SAS 164 review process before presentation to the Resources and Development and Naa’bik’iyati’ Committees.

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Above, Exhibit 1 illustrates the U.S. 89 pedestrian underpass at milepost 464.78. ADOT is responsible for the roadway lighting and NDOT is responsible for underpass lighting and the mainline and ramp sidewalks. Below, the rendering of the underpass access illustrates the sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, the ramp and the sidewalk going through the underpass. (Renderings courtesy of ADOT)

“We would love to deliver this project as the entire piece, from an economy of scale perspective and also to benefit the community.”



RESPECTING THE NATIVE HERITAGE AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE



Third Annual Monument Valley Balloon Event - January 13, 2013 by the Three Sisters - Photo by: Geri Camarillo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Roberta John - Senior Economic Development Specialist
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Navajo Nation Hosts Successful Balloon Event

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA – A rendition of beautiful aerial poetry in motion.

Those are words that depict the Third Annual Monument Valley Hot Air Balloon Event at Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park on January 11-13, 2013, which was sponsored by the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department. The increasing-popular event was definitely a novelty and catered to every desire.

First-time participants and visitors describe the annual dovetailing event as “absolutely amazing to mystic,” which is the credo of Navajo. And there’s something that makes worldwide



visitors embrace the elegance and timeless Navajo cultural treasures to the showcase of architectural ambience.

Hot air balloon pilot enthusiast Graham Bell from Malvern, England has an insatiable love for the Navajo Nation. Case in point, he made a triumphant return to the Navajo Nation – this marks his seventh visit to marvel the beauty of Navajo. However, it was only his second time to participate in the annual premier event at Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. Graham was one of 20 pilots from throughout the world who soared through the crisp blue skies in a towering grand assembly fashion.

“Monument Valley is a mystic place in the nicest possible way. There’s just something that I just love here,” Bell explained. “When I received an invitation to participate in the Monument Valley Hot Air Balloon Event, it didn’t take me more than three seconds to say yes. I always dreamed of flying here.”

Graham has been coasting his balloons through the skies for 22 years and has participated in many hot air balloon events throughout the world. Although the signature event at Monument Valley has fewer balloons in the air, Graham said he especially enjoyed his rides on the Navajo Nation.

“It was very peaceful and serene,” he noted. “There’s no pressure here, just pure enjoyment to see a panoramic view of the area. I also met a lot of amazing people.”

Bell said he vacationed with his son and daughter and visited several parks in the Four Corners region including Grand Canyon in the past. However, Bell said their favorite place was Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.

Chris Bell from Aberdeenshire, Scotland who is Bell’s brother came along for the ride so to speak, but he didn’t know he was going to also get a birds-eye-view of the iconic red rock formations.

Bell said “It was absolutely amazing and it exceeded my expectation. It was just wonderful and I feel privileged that I had an opportunity to be a rider. I can see why people see it as special place – it’s mystic. To see Monument Valley from the sky is just magical.”



Cathy Stringfellow of Albuquerque said although she is from Albuquerque, she would rather fly at Monument Valley, adding, “There is no comparison to the balloon event in Albuquerque. This place is absolutely beautiful.”

Bryan Hill of Page, Arizona echoed similar comments. “Monument Valley’s most unique rock formations, mesas, buttes and iconic scenery provides a jaw dropping backdrop creating one of the most breathtaking places on earth to enjoy hot air ballooning.”

Hill said the idea of hosting a hot air balloon event on the Navajo Nation was discussed in 2007 and finally brought to fruition after many months of planning by Hill and Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department staff. Since then, Hill has been working quietly behind the scenes with Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Staff to launch three successful hot air balloon events at Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.

He was quick to point out his gratitude to the Navajo Nation, noting, “The balloon pilots and crews are all grateful to the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation staff for putting this event together. We hope this event will continue for years to come and be a boost to the local economy. All the pilots feel privileged to both fly Monument Valley and spend time with the locals. Flying hot air balloons in Monument Valley is exciting then when you add the welcome we received from the people of Monument Valley and the Navajo Nation, the event elevates to ‘outstanding!’ We are all already looking forward to next year.”

No expenses were spared at the third annual event, which featured a variety of activities, games, speakers, entertainers and musical genres that was suited for the entire family. Distinguished Navajo leaders also attended and participated in the eye-catching celebration.

Event Coordinator Geri Camarillo, said “I met with the community six months before the event to gather input on who would be performing at this event. We try very hard to accommodate the community’s input and this year we had a great line-up for both Youth Day and Family Day.”

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said “Thank you for coming out and thank you Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation for bringing this event to the Navajo Nation. Thank you to all the visitors for coming. You can get to know who we are. We have a lot of great food and



places to shop. Look at our beautiful sites here on the Navajo Nation. I am very proud of the Navajo people.”

Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim has become a mainstay and especially enjoys the annual Monument Valley Hot Air Balloon Event. In fact, this is Jim’s third time he has journeyed through the skies as a rider.

“Thank you for allowing us to be here today,” said Jim. “I’d like to welcome all the non-Navajos here. Be sure and buy from our Navajo people and help them. Let’s also take care of our land and keep it beautiful.”

Navajo Nation Council Delegate Jonathan Nez who was also a rider stated, “It gives you a better appreciation of our land from the air. We have one of the most beautiful places in the world. I want to challenge the Navajo people to be good stewards of our land and keep it beautiful and pristine.”

Larry Holiday, a community liaison who works with the schools in Monument Valley assisted with the Navajo shoe game, which was a first-ever featured event.

Holiday said the Navajo shoe game was a match-up between elders who have years of knowledge and wisdom versus the younger generation. Holiday said that it is imperative that communities host Navajo shoe games and other winter events because that is when oral stories and activities can be shared about early Navajo history.

Navajo Nation Martin L. Begaye, said “I am very proud of my staff who worked tirelessly to plan and host this wonderful community event. I would also like to thank the many partners and sponsors who assisted to make it successful. We are doing our best to promote the local businesses and help boost the Navajo Nation economy while simultaneously accommodating our visitors. This is one way that we are saying ‘thank you’ to the Navajo people for their support and our way of giving back to the community. The Navajo Nation is a haven of unparalleled scenic beauty, however, it is the Navajo people who are truly unique and beautiful.”



NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
January 11, 2013

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New Mexico Dept of Transportation to host meetings in Northern Navajo Agency



Snow removal activities continue for the Navajo Division of Transportation in the aftermath of Snowstorm Gandolf. Navajo DOT continues working in partnership with other agencies such as the New Mexico Department of Transportation to keep roads safe for travelers. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

The New Mexico Department of Transportation will be hosting public stakeholder meetings in the Northern Navajo Agency on Jan. 16, 2013. The meetings will take place at the Beclabito Chapter House at 2 p.m. and the Shiprock Chapter House at 5 p.m. Community members, school board members, school administrators, chapter officials, and council delegates are encouraged to attend.

The invitation is also open for the general public from surrounding communities.

NMDOT will report on the recent Road Safety Audits conducted on U.S. Highway 64 near Shiprock High School and Beclabito Chapter House and store access route.

NMDOT is seeking comment and suggestions on improving these roadways.

For more information contact Larry Ute Joe, senior planner for Navajo Division of Transportation, at 505-368-1536 or email him at ljoe@navajodot.org.

Information: www.navajodot.org



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For Immediate Release
January 7, 2013

Navajo President Signs Resolution Creating Health Emergency for Administration Building Two

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed a resolution declaring a public health state of emergency for Administration Building Two because of fungi found in the building.

The resolution was signed Monday morning and closes Administration Building Two so remediation and renovation can begin, which should take about six months.

“We need to ensure the health of our Navajo Nation employees is secured. Once it was reported that conditions in Administration Building Two had mold, we formulated a plan for our employees to temporarily relocate so the building can be remediated and renovated,” President Shelly said.

Administration Building Two was ordered closed by the Navajo Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NOSHA) on Dec. 27 and a Jan. 4 meeting finalized plans for the more than 12 programs and about 200 workers to begin moving into different office buildings in the Window Rock area.

The Friday meeting involved the Navajo Division of Health, Department of Public Health, Facilities Maintenance, Division of Community Development, NOSHA, Office of President and Vice President and the Department of Public Safety. The offices will coordinate with each other while the building is being remediated and renovated.

“We’re following the guidance provided through a Continuity of Operations plan and checklists to be sent out from the Department of Emergency Management. We also are going to ensure that we communicate with affected employees and the general public about what our immediate and longer term plans are going to be. We need to make sure this happens so the essential services we provide the people will continue uninterrupted,” Chief of Staff Arbin Mitchell said.

“The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation Tribal Administration Building

Number Two due to substantial public health and safety risks from continued exposure to significant amounts of mold impacting building occupants,” the resolution stated.

The declaration also states that the Navajo Nation needs to provide resources to protect the health, safety and welfare of Navajo citizens regarding Administration Building Two.

Employees are asked to follow procedures when taking items from the building to reduce the risk of cross contamination.

“We need to reduce the risk as much as possible. The key people that would be affected by this would be immunocompromised persons and those with respiratory illnesses. ” said Department of Emergency Management Director, Rose Whitehair.

The remediation and renovation is expected to cost about \$12 million, which includes renovation costs for Administration Building One. Administration Building One was closed in September 2010 after mold was discovered.

Employees should expect to move back in Administration Building Two in about six months.

According to a report from EnviroScience Consulting Inc., Administration Building 2 has water damage and fungal spores. The report recommends the roof, the structure and electrical system all should be inspected since the building is about 30 years old. Furthermore, the report recommended that the HVAC system be replaced.

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