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For Immediate Release  
Sept. 30, 2012

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## Navajo President Shelly to Congress: Do Your Job

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Speaking out against a potential federal government shutdown, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly expressed his dismay that Congress is failing to honor its trust responsibility to Native American tribes.

"It is unconscionable that the federal government will come to a complete halt due to a few unreasonable members of Congress. They have one primary role, to fund the government, and they need to do their job. By failing to provide funding, Congress is once again failing to honor its trust responsibility to America's first people," President Shelly said.

The Navajo people will see an immediate impact in their communities. Hospitals, law enforcement and social services will remain operational. Social Security benefits (both Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance) will continue to be disbursed uninterrupted. Other programs such as tribal colleges, some Indian Health Service units, and Head Start are not forward funded and will operate only if funds are currently available. There is no guarantee of federal reimbursement if tribes choose to self-fund.

"Much like sequester, once again Congress is placing ideology before the basic needs of American people," added President Shelly.

President Shelly also reiterated the Navajo Nation's need for fiscal restraint in uncertain economic environments.

"The Navajo Nation Council has repeatedly attempted to use up our reserves. I have sought to ensure that we have sufficient dollars to weather these types of crises through veto of budget line items. I recently vetoed more than \$8.7 million in unnecessary spending. I urge the Council to keep federal budget uncertainties, like the current possible shutdown, in mind when appropriating the Navajo people's money," President Shelly said.

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## Floods cover Navajo Nation, NDOT steps up with road maintenance



Rock Point Chapter was hit especially hard by monsoon rains in mid-Sept. 2013. This aerial photo south of Rock Point shows the flooding on both sides of U.S. Route 191. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-The flood waters have finally receded.

For over a month, the Navajo Nation received several inches of rainfall from the monsoon rains, giving life to the high desert plants and challenges for reservation travelers in the process.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Navajo Nation received over 150 percent of the normal amount of precipitation. Portions of Coconino and Navajo County received almost double the normal monsoonal rainfall.

"We have been working the two months to address washouts and flooding across the Navajo Nation," said Paulson Chaco, director of Navajo

Division of Transportation.

Chaco said NDOT staff worked late into the night and on weekends to get the roadways cleared.

"The storms first hit the Eastern Agency in mid-August and continued through into the month of September for the Chinle Agency," Chaco said. "We utilized funds that were earmarked for FY 2014 road maintenance projects to address the flooding.

"The Navajo Nation needs to do a mitigation plan for these flood plains," he added.

On August 21, 2013, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management met at the Navajo Transportation Center Emergency Operations Center and declared a state of emergency due to damag-

es from and in response to torrential monsoonal flooding throughout the Navajo Nation.

The declaration was passed by a vote of 4-0.

The Commission stated the Navajo Nation sustained damages exceeding the one million dollar threshold for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's major disaster declaration.

Tribal programs suffering damages from the storm included Fleet Management, Motor Pool, Body Shop, Navajo Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Justice, Navajo Nation Council Chamber, Navajo Nation Zoo, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, and Bureau of Indian Affairs offices.

The declaration listed

21 Arizona chapters that sustained damages, plus 26 chapters in New Mexico with similar damages, and six chapters in Utah that were also adversely affected by the weather conditions.

In addition, 50 earthen dams, excluding federally-listed dams under the Safety of Dams, were breached from the heavy rainfall.

Signed by CEM Commissioner Herman Shorty and Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, the declaration allowed the Navajo Nation to coordinate emergency and disaster relief with non-tribal entities.

Chaco said although NDOT was not in the business of maintaining dams, his crew worked feverishly on Sept. 14 to prevent the Crownpoint

Dam, located behind the old PHS housing, from breaching.

Lyneve Begaye, an archaeologist with the NDOT Project Planning Department, said she assisted with emergency services in Crownpoint.

“Crownpoint Dam needed monitoring for environmental and archaeological services. We also took out water and supplies for residents,” Begaye said.

NDOT staff utilized a six-inch pump owned by the division to begin pumping water out of the dam to relieve pressure. Begaye and others also began filling and stacking sandbags to hold back the water.

Begaye said, “We ended up sandbagging and clearing an area for our blade and loader to cut a spillway into the dam to relieve the pressure.

With assistance from the Department of Water Resources, a deep spillway was cut into the dam and a flooding disaster for the community was averted.

On Sept. 16, President Shelly requested for assistance from FEMA to address the damages from the storm.

Recently, NDOT Department of Roads released a report titled “Operation Storm Surge,” which tracked their efforts with flood road maintenance activities from the past month.

The eight-page report detailed the scope of work provided by NDOT road crews during recent rain storms and floods across the Navajo Nation.

For the Chinle Agency, 27 routes were cleared. The six washouts and one sinkhole in the area resulted in 81.6 miles of road that was bladed and reshaped and 2,024 cubic yards of road that was backfilled.

Using the manpower of 14 NDOT personnel and seven heavy equipment vehicles, the total cost for the road maintenance was \$37,233. Fleet expenses amounted to \$24,309 and personnel expenses totaled \$12,923.

Work began on Sept. 3, with an assessment of the Chinle Agency and briefing meeting at the Incident

Command Center at Wildcat Den. Road maintenance activities concluded on Sept. 20, with washout repair and culvert backfill on N8068 in the Tachee and Whippoorwill area.

A total of 52 road maintenance projects were completed, with assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which worked on 12 of the projects.

The Department of Roads also released a second report, detailing work performed in the Tonalea and Cow Springs area from Sept. 4 through Sept. 13.

There were six washouts and one sinkhole in the area and NDOT road crews cleared five routes of sediment and debris. A total of 15.1 miles of road was bladed or reshaped. A total of 411.47 cubic yards was backfilled.

The total cost for efforts in the Tonalea area amounted to \$26,580. Travel expenses were 1,920. Fleet expenses were \$14,244. Personnel expenses amounted to \$9,147.

Routes that were addressed in the area by NDOT road crews included 6011, 6260, 513N, 6270, 6269, N631, and 213.

NDOT worked with the BIA Force Account crew to address flooding in the San Juan Chapter area, which had five routes that were flooded and three sinkholes.

Crews cleared the area in four days.

Interstate 40 near Tohajilee was temporarily closed to one lane by New Mexico Department of Transportation on Sept. 13, after a 20-foot sinkhole was discovered in the center of the freeway.

Another area of concern was U.S. Route 491, which was momentarily closed, after the rainstorms flooded the damaged roadway between Naschitti and Sheep Springs.

NMDOT road crews cleared the roadway and opened it up to traffic.

Information:  
[www.navajodot.org](http://www.navajodot.org)



*Navajo Division of Transportation director Paulson Chaco inspects a temporary bridge built by residents of Pinedale Chapter, after their old bridge was washed out after the storms. Joining him is heavy equipment operator Cornelius Kenny. (Photo by Rick Abasta)*



*Homes alongside U.S. Route 191 in the Many Farms area were flooded for days before the water began to recede. Here, Apache County Sheriff's Office perform a welfare check on residents stranded by flooding. (Photo by Rick Abasta)*



*Access roads off U.S. Route 191 south of Chinle were completely flooded. BIA and NDOT road crews worked steadfastly to clear roads of sediment and debris. A bulldozer is visible in the distance. (Photo by Rick Abasta)*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Resources and Development Committee discusses Navajo Agriculture Products Incorporated audit report and farming ventures**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee discussed a report from Navajo Agricultural Products Incorporated regarding their 2012-2013 audit.

NAPI is a Navajo Nation owned farming enterprise that produces Navajo Pride brand agricultural products such as potatoes, alfalfa, beans, small grains, and corn. NAPI is located near Farmington, operating one of the largest ranges of farmland in the country.

The NAPI audit report included an extensive review of 2012-2013 financial statements, a listing of capital and assets, expenditures, and summaries of single audits.

NAPI chief financial officer Darryl Maltine, reviewed the audit report with RDC members and explained that NAPI's newest venture is aimed at strengthening the Navajo Pride flour brand.

Maltine added that in the past NAPI sold a large quantity of its wheat crop to the Blue Bird Flour Company, and are now redirecting those efforts to increase the familiarity of Navajo Pride flour brand amongst the Navajo People.

"I am unsatisfied with the audit report," said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle). "We should hear that you are helping our Navajo people with a fair price of hay and other NAPI products."

Delegate Pete added that although financial information is important, he had hoped to receive a report regarding NAPI's efforts to assist Navajo communities with farming and providing them with a fair price for NAPI products.

"Right now, we are strengthening NAPI's stance in the flour mill market. We are getting people to know the Navajo Pride brand of flour," said Maltine. "As a board and management we would like to provide some type of return to accommodate and help our Navajo People."

"We would like to see NAPI create an Arizona expansion plan for NAPI II," said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake). "We need a way to give back to the Navajo people so they can be proud of it."

Delegate Tsosie also mentioned the need for NAPI to work with rural Navajo farmers to share their expertise and knowledge of modern farming.

The RDC approved the report with a vote of 4-0.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



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**Speaker Naize and Delegate Bates push for the approval of the Navajo Nation's Gaming Compact with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee**



**Photo: Speaker Johnny Naize, President Ben Shelly, and Council Delegate Lorenzo Bates discuss the proposed gaming compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee on Wednesday.**

**CHURCH ROCK, N.M.** – On Wednesday afternoon, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) and chair of the Naabik'iyáti Committee's Gaming Task Force Subcommittee Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland), met with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee to advocate for the state's approval of the proposed gaming compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico.

Currently, the Nation is one of five tribes signed onto the 2001 Gaming Compact which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2015. The Nation entered into the Compact in 2003.

In his address to the Indian Affairs Committee, Speaker Naize stressed the economic importance of the compact for the Navajo Nation, and urged the approval of the compact.

"The Navajo Nation needs this compact approved in order for the Nation to continue developing its economy," said Speaker Naize. "These terms are consistent and fulfill the intent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, while promoting economic development and creating self-sufficiency and allowing for a stronger tribal government."

In May 2012, the Navajo Nation began initial discussions with Gov. Susana Martinez's Lead Negotiator and after nine months of tough negotiating, an agreement was reached on the terms of the Compact.

On Mar. 8, Gov. Martinez submitted the Navajo Nation Compact to the Committee on Compacts which later recommended the approval of the Compact and submission of a joint resolution to the New Mexico Legislature for a vote.

Although the New Mexico Compact Negotiation Act requires the legislature to act without delay, the gaming compact was not placed on the Senate floor for a vote during the 2013 State Legislature's regular session.

"We have patiently followed the process outlined in the Compact Negotiations Act," said Delegate Bates to Indian Affairs Committee members. "There has been a question over whether or not the compact should go back to the Committee on Compacts. However, it is the Navajo Nation's position that this does not go back to the Committee on Compacts and should be moved to the House and the Senate floor at the 2014 [State Legislature session].

Speaker Naize and Delegate Bates also emphasized that the proposed Compact is an agreement between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico and does not bind any other tribe.

Also in attendance were representatives from the four other tribes currently operating under the 2001 Gaming Compact, which include the Pueblo of Acoma, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, and the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

During the discussion, representatives from the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Mescalero Apache Tribe expressed support for the Navajo Nation's proposed gaming compact.

"I am pleased that other New Mexico gaming tribes are supportive of Navajo's proposed gaming compact which has not always been the case," said Speaker Naize following the meeting. "It is the first time the other tribes have publicly stated their support and it strengthens our Nation's gaming endeavors."

The New Mexico State Legislature is scheduled to convene for its regular session on Jan. 21, 2014.

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## **Law and Order Committee receives report on the update of operation and maintenance of the Navajo Nation Judicial/Public Safety complexes**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee approved several reports on the operation and maintenance activities of the Navajo Nation judicial/public safety complexes from the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections, Judicial Branch, Navajo Nation Design and Engineering, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs regional office.

Each entity provided an update report regarding the operation and maintenance of the justice centers, including the certificate of occupancy, inspections, and construction related activities.

“This meeting was called because of the outcry from the Crownpoint [corrections] facility being shut down recently,” said LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau). “There is a lack of communication between all the entities here.”

Each entity discussed issues ranging from funding shortfalls, lack of personnel, and the need to improve operation and maintenance of the justice centers to function efficiently.

Navajo Nation Department of Corrections director Dolores Greyeyes stated she strongly supports the development of the justice centers, however, the most critical issue DOC is facing are funding shortfalls that directly affect the hiring of additional corrections staff.

“According to the 1992 Consent Decree requirements, we must be fully staffed in order to operate at an optimum capacity,” said Greyeyes. “However, we are no where near the fulfillment of this agreement, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have not provided sufficient dollars to aid the shortfalls.”

The 1992 Consent Decree stems from a lawsuit in which DNA Legal Services sued the Navajo Nation over alleged mistreatment and health safety concerns of inmates. In response, the Navajo Nation set forth a decree to enhance medical care services, improve carrying capacity, and to have proper staffing to handle inmate population.

“Crownpoint is only operating with eight corrections officers and [recently] a part of the jail was shut down,” said LOC member Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock), “how do we avoid this from occurring at the other new jail facilities?”

Greyeyes stated that in order to avoid the shut down of any portion of the jail facilities, Navajo Nation policy makers need to advocate for more funding from the federal government to ensure they fulfill their trust responsibility to the Nation, which would aid in avoiding future shortfalls.

Navajo Nation Chief Justice Herb Yazzie was in agreement with Greyeyes, saying that much of the issues plaguing the justice centers is the lack of funding at all levels, mainly law enforcement and the courts.

LOC vice chair Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) stressed that all entities involved need to improve their communication and partnerships, and recognize that the goal of the justice centers is to provide safety for the Navajo people.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Delegate Yazzie suggested that all entities meet annually, prior to the finalization of their budgets to discuss funding needs and areas for improvement.

LOC voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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**Health, Education, and Human Services Committee  
discusses the Navajo Birth Cohort Study progress and funding**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discussed an update report from the Navajo Birth Cohort study, which examines the relationship between uranium exposures, birth outcomes, and child development on the Navajo Nation.

After decades of uranium mining across the Navajo Nation, the cohort study team is currently recruiting Navajo participants, who live near or have been exposed to uranium mines and contaminated areas.

“The cohort study is a part of a Congressionally mandated plan to address the effects of uranium mining,” said UNM director of community environmental health program Dr. Johnnye Lewis. “Some of our sites have started recruiting participants in Feb., while other sites have kicked-off recruitment earlier this month.”

Dr. Lewis added that the study is funded in three ways. The University of New Mexico, Navajo Area Indian Health Services, and Navajo Nation Division of Health have each received funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control for data analysis and community outreach.

The birth cohort study has recently sent blood and urine samples to the CDC, which will be analyzed this week. According to previous samples have returned with traces arsenic, lead, chrome, and manganese.

“We want to work with WIC, the Office of Uranium Workers, the Office of Health Education, and the First Born Program to get people really involved,” said NNDOH CHR program director Mae-Gilene Begay. “We are heavily involved [in] getting out to the chapters and have made presentations at the agency councils.”

Presenters also reported that the hiring of recruiters was delayed due to Navajo Department of Personnel Management’s administrative process.

“I want to let the committee know that the reason we were late applying for the project was because it took over a year to get the project manager and research specialist positions approved by DPM,” said Begay. “It was an uphill battle getting staff hired for this project. Five of the CHR staff had to be assigned to the project.”

Following the presentation, HEHSC vice chair Council Delegate Charles Damon II (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) asked for Dr. Lewis to provide with data relative to the Churchrock area.

“In Churchrock we have URI, Inc. and I would like to see the data so that the people have an understanding about what is going on,” said Delegate Damon. “We need to educate the people about these studies. They do no good if the people never hear them.”

Dr. Lewis explained that the cohort studies do not have any concrete data yet, while offering to share and explain the data from a previous study called the “Diné Project”.

“The ‘Diné Project’ includes water data, and it says there is about 8-10% that is contaminated from uranium and arsenic,” said Dr. Lewis. “There are also some homes that have been built with rocks and materials from the mining sites. After the blastings, workers would take home contaminated materials and use them to build their homes.”

HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) requested for a written report to share with chapters and constituents.

“We want to be sure to educate them immediately,” said Delegate Hale.

The HEHSC voted to accept the report with a vote of 3-0.

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## DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 26, 2013**

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### The Future of Energy Resources Depends on the Innovative New Generation



September 7, 2013, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Director of Division of Natural Resources, Frederick H. White congratulates Tayshaun Dale for a job well done at the Energy Expo Youth Science Technology Competition at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, Az. (Photo by Geri Hongeva)

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. – The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair brings a variety of family fun, including the Energy Expo and the Youth Science Technology Competition. Division of Natural Resources and its sponsors coordinate five days of educating the public about potential energy development and current operations on Navajo Nation.

The Energy Expo provides an opportunity for the public to learn from energy leaders around the Navajo Nation. It also brings energy awareness, to educate the public about potential energy development from local energy sources. The energy companies brought representatives to answer any inquiries about their organizations and expand on some energy solutions for Navajo.

Division of Natural Resources collaborated with Office of the President and Vice President to introduce the Energy Expo three years ago. Together, they hope to form enough interest for Navajo youth to learn more about traditional, renewable and sustainable energy resources. Launching new ideas and moving towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly industry for Navajo country.

“Our future lies within the young minds and hearts of the new generation, we want to inspire them to be proactive when it comes to preserving and managing Navajo’s Natural Resources,” explained

Frederick H. White, Director for Division of Natural Resources. My team works very hard to plan for the Energy Expo, I commend them for their positive spirit to make this happen, they have done an excellent job working closely with our sponsors, added White.

The Youth Science Competition includes four grade levels; 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The project categories are: Science, Math & Statistics, Natural Resources (Energy), Technology/Engineering, and Computer Applications. There were 30 entries from schools including; Navajo Preparatory School, Tsehootsoi Intermediate Learning Center, Kirtland Middle School, Tsehootsoi Middle School, St. Michael Indian School, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta and Window Rock High School.

The Youth Science Competition Winners are:

Category 1 – Grades 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kaydee Watchman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Loxitawny Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tayshaun Dale, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, St. Michael Indian School

Category 2 – Grades 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jacob Harvey, N/A
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kylie Watchman, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Dine Bi'Olta
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Eli Yazzie, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Intermediate Learning Center

Category 3 – Grades 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Taylor Yazzie, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Kirtland Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Martinez, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jaden Redhair, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tsehootsoi Middle School

Category 4 – Grades 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> Deshina Joe, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Navajo Preparatory School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tyler Bahe, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Navajo Preparatory School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Krystelle Boyd, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Navajo Preparatory School

The winners received Nikon Coolpix S3500 digital cameras, \$250 Best Buy Gift Cards, Samsung Galaxy Note 10.3 and the Grand Prize Winner received a MacBook Pro. These prizes would not have been possible without the Energy Expo Sponsors: Navajo Generating Station, Resolute, Peabody Energy, Arizona Public Service, Abandon Mine Lands (AML), NTUA, Navajo Nation Oil & Gas, Public Service of New Mexico, Water Management, Nova Corporation, NTUA /NTUA Wireless, Navajo Technical Energy Co, Department of Water Resources, Forestry Department and Navajo Land Department.

The overall winner, Brayden Watchman, 5th grader of St. Michaels School won the MacBook Pro by scientifically explaining “the Life Cycle of a Duck.” The ten-year old scientist did an outstanding job displaying his observation and did a remarkable job verbally explaining the life cycle of a duck to the judges. He showed enthusiasm and demonstrated confidence throughout the competition.



Brayden Watchman, 10 years old with his father and aunt at the Navajo Nation Fair Energy Expo, September 7, 2013. (Photo by Geri Hongeva)

“It was exciting to see the students bringing in their projects, this competition has grown since our first year with only three entries. We look forward to next year’s competition at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair in September 2014,” stated Michelle Henry, Division of Natural Resources Energy Expo Coordinator. Special appreciation to Energy Expo Committee members: Irma Roanhorse,

Hope Wilson, Charlene Roanhorse, Everytt Begay, Mike Halona and Alyssa Roanhorse.

On Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Energy Expo highlighted the ‘Faces of Navajo Achievers.’ The Faces of Achievers are Navajo Professionals who have contribute their services in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Natural Resources for demonstrating leadership, authenticity and innovation to lead their colleagues and programs by achieving excellence in moving the Navajo Nation forward, one step at a time.

Navajo Achievers for this year’s Energy Expo are: Stephen Etsitty from Navajo Nation EPA, Virgil Coriz from Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative Inc., Keith Keetso from Red Gap Engineering, Ryan James from Navajo Nation Land Department, Rita Whitehorse-Larsen from Navajo Nation EPA, Robert Kirk from Navajo Nation Water Management, Darryl Bradley from Navajo Division of Transportation, Eugenia Quintana from Navajo Nation EPA, Howard Draper from Navajo Land Department, Pam Kyselka from Navajo Fish & Wildlife, and Harrison Tsosie from Navajo Department of Justice.

During the event, we had two guest speakers that shared their knowledge and experiences in the areas of Science, Engineering, Technology and Natural Resources. Guest speakers were: Steve Gundersen with Tallsalt Advisors and Navajo Transitional Energy Company Managing Chair, and Theresa Becenti-Aguilar with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

The Energy Expo brings innovative ideas together and promotes an energy conscious society and initiates effective networks for students, educators, businesses, government and community leaders to plan for energy development here on Navajo Nation. Division of Natural Resources is one of the largest divisions within the Navajo tribe, managing and supervising twelve departments which strives to preserve and protect the natural resources of Navajo Nation is an immense duty.

For more information visit Division of Natural Resources website at: [www.dnrnavajo.org](http://www.dnrnavajo.org) or call (928) 871-6592.

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For Immediate Release  
Sept. 25, 2013

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## President Shelly Commemorates Fallen Code Talker and Orders Navajo Flag Lowered

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.**— Navajo President Ben Shelly commemorated a fallen Navajo Code Talker Nelson Draper Sr., 96, who passed away early Sunday morning at his home in Barstow, Calif.

President Shelly also ordered the Navajo Nation flag be lowered in honor of Code Talker Draper beginning Thursday, Sept. 26 through Sept. 30.

“The Navajo Nation is saddened to learn about the passing of Code Talker Draper. We have lost another modern day hero whose deeds have brought great pride to the Navajo Nation because the Code Talkers used our language to help win World War II. Code Talker Draper’s deeds will be remembered and that of all the other Navajo Code Talkers. The Navajo Nation will eternally be grateful for their service to our country and our people,” President Shelly said.

“I urge all Navajo people to join First Lady Martha Shelly, Vice President Rex Lee Jim and myself to join us in prayers for the family of Code Talker Draper during their time of need.”

In 2001, Draper was honored for his service as one of 228 Navajo Code Talkers to receive the Congressional Silver Medal.

Services for Code Talker Draper are scheduled to take place on Friday in Barstow, Calif. At 9 a.m., a rosary and mass is planned at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church at 505 E. Mountain View Street. At 10 a.m., a memorial service is scheduled at High Desert Word Center, 30918 Soapmine Road.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: Tuesday, September 24, 2013**

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation announces a contest to design the official seal of the Judicial Branch. Submissions of original artwork are now being sought for this contest. The artist of the winning entry will receive an award of \$1,700 for all rights to the design (the winner gives up all rights to his or her design).

This call for submissions allows for the public to be involved in creating a symbol for the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation that reflects its purpose, goals and services. The Judicial Branch includes 11 judicial districts with 12 District Courts, the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation, the Peacemaking Program, and the Office of Probation and Parole Services. The branch operates with the policy that the traditional value system of the Diné is to be reflected in all its work.

The following rules will apply:

- The contest is open to all individuals except for Judicial Branch executive staff, court administrators and judicial conference. Entries must include entrant's name, age, postal address, phone number and e-mail address (if available). If entrant is under 18 years old, entry must also include a signed statement of parental consent to enter contest.
- Original artwork may be hand drawn or digitally generated and must be created by submitting individual.
- By submitting an entry, the entrant attests that the artwork submitted is his or her own property and is able to transfer the rights to the property to the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation.
- Hard copies or digital copies may be accepted. Hard copies may be delivered to the Administrative Office of the Courts in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), or mailed to Administrative Office of the Courts, ATTN: Karen Francis, P.O. Box 520, Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), 86515. Digital copies must be in high resolution jpeg or PDF format and may be e-mailed to Karen Francis, Government

Relations Officer, at [karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:karenfrancis@navajo-nsn.gov) with JUDICIAL BRANCH SEAL in the e-mail subject line.

- All submissions must be received by 12 p.m., on October 25, 2013. The Judicial Branch is not responsible for entries that are lost in transmission or late.
- The seal should be clear and visible at a small size; however, the entry must be large enough to be easily reproduced digitally and in print. The entry should also be reproducible in black and white. Entries should be at least 300 dpi.
- The Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation has the final authority to adopt the seal. All entries shall be reviewed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, court administrators and the judicial conference. They shall make a recommendation by consensus to the Supreme Court for adoption.
- Upon payment of the award, the Judicial Branch shall retain all rights to the design selected as the winning entry from that day forward. The Judicial Branch reserves the right to change, alter and/or reformat the winning design as necessary.
- Participation in the contest constitutes agreement and acceptance of rules. The Judicial Branch reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not conform to these rules.

For more information on the Judicial Branch, please visit [www.navajocourts.org](http://www.navajocourts.org).

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 24, 2013

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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**Health, Education, and Human Services Committee  
members advocate for the continuation of AHCCCS benefits for Navajos**

**PHOENIX** – Last Thursday, members from the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee attended the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Tribal Consultation, which was conducted to clarify to Arizona’s tribal leaders and tribal health entities about the proposed contingency plan known as the 1115 waiver.

Due to the recession, in July 2011 AHCCCS implemented an eligibility freeze that would close enrollment to all individuals until additional funds became available for the AHCCCS Care program, according to the AHCCCS assistant director of intergovernmental affairs Monica Coury,

AHCCCS was also forced to make cuts to several benefits such as emergency dental, podiatry, and wellness visits previously covered by AHCCCS.

Following the benefit cuts and enrollment freeze, AHCCCS submitted a waiver to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which allowed for AHCCCS to reimburse Indian Health Services and 638 facilities for providing uncompensated care to patients, on Dec. 31 this waiver expires.

“The need for such services and benefits is essential. The Navajo health care system is working to provide such services along with preventative measures,” said HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels).

Following the signing of Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer’s health care plan, which expands health coverage up to 133% of the federal poverty level, a group of 36 Arizona legislators working with the Goldwater Institute filed lawsuits against both Governor Brewer and AHCCCS director Tom Betlach, calling the Governor’s plan unconstitutional.

AHCCCS is currently working to submit the proposed of the 1115 waiver to CMS that would allow for the continuation of reimbursements to I.H.S. and 638 health facilities.

The implementation of the 1115 waiver is dependent on the outcome of the lawsuit. A decision in favor of the Goldwater Institute would cause the waiver to take effect.

“This is a complex issue, and I want to be confident moving forward. What remains is a lot of ‘what if’s’ and I’m uncomfortable with those unknowns in our health system,” said Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi).

In an effort to prevent any disruption to benefits, HEHSC members strongly advocated for the approval of the 1115 waiver.

Although AHCCCS representatives remain confident that the lawsuit's outcome will be in their favor, and that Gov. Brewer's health care plan will be sufficient to restore benefits and end the enrollment freeze, the Nation has requested further details to explain such.

The AHCCCS plans to develop a proposal for the 1115 waiver to be submitted to the federal CMS by the end of this week.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 24, 2013

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## **Budget and Finance Committee approves U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant application**

**WINDOW ROCK** – The Budget and Finance Committee held a special meeting on Monday and approved a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant application for approximately \$177,000 for FY2014, which would not require a cash match by the Navajo Nation.

Currently, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency is conducting cleanups of abandoned uranium mines throughout the Navajo Nation through the General Assistance Program funded by grants from the U.S. EPA.

“The EPA General Assistance Program focuses on outreach for abandoned uranium mines in Navajo communities,” said NNEPA Agency Sr. Public Information Officer Lillie Lane. “Now, we want to add job development in our upcoming budget through this grant.”

Legislation prime sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) asked to waive the Indirect Cost of the grant because an IDC rate has yet to be determined for FY2014, which is a requirement by the U.S. EPA.

The Nation is then entitled to collect IDC recovery costs from the federal government through an approved IDC rate, which applies to federal grants, contracts, and agreements.

Although the legislation’s intent was met with support, the request to waive the IDC rate for the U.S. EPA grant drew skepticism from several BFC members.

“No cost match [for the grant] is great, but why are we waiving IDC rates?” asked BFC member Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tse Ch’izhi).

In response, Office of Contracts and Grants contracting manager Cordell Shorty said that the U.S. EPA is allowing the Navajo Nation to collect 10 percent in IDC recovery costs for salaries only.

“We should not be granting IDC waiver requests, even if we are recovering 10 percent because the [U.S. EPA] program is not paying its fair share and that should be a huge concern for the committee,” said BFC member Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil,

Tse Sí'ani, Wide Ruins). "Should we even accept these types of grants if it is not bringing IDC funds back to the Navajo Nation?"

Delegate Shepherd explained that the Navajo Nation has the ability to collect the full Indirect Cost amount at a later time when an IDC rate has been negotiated and implemented for FY2014.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Delegate BeGaye requested a directive to have Shorty develop a memorandum to clarify the future of the grant and IDC recovery costs.

BFC voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0253-13. The legislation now goes to the Naabik'íyátí Committee for final consideration.

The Resources and Development Committee initially considered the legislation on Sept. 12, which referred it to the Budget and Finance Committee with a "do pass" recommendation with no amendments.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



## OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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P.O. Box 129  
ST. MICHAELS, AZ 86511  
PHONE: (928) 871-7436  
FAX: (928) 871-7437

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 23, 2013**

### **NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES OCTOBER MEETING LOCATION**

**ST. MICHAELS, NAVAJO NATION** –The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission will host the October meeting on Friday, October 4, 2013 at the St. Michaels, Arizona office location. The meeting is to begin at 10:00 a.m. Should you need any further information please contact the Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at 928-871-7436.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 20, 2013

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**Health, Education, and Human Services Committee  
discusses report about Smoke-Free Policies on the Navajo Nation**

**LEUPP, Ariz.** – On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received a report from Networks Among Tribal Organizations for Clear Air Policies about the Smoke-Free Policies on the Navajo Nation: preliminary findings of focus group data.

The report was presented by NATO CAP research assistant Alfred Yazzie, who explained that the Nation currently does not have a Commercial Tobacco-Free law and that the implementation of such a law would promote a healthier Navajo Nation.

“When I travel across Navajo, I see high school students smoking on their lunch break. The focus of the research should be to help the youth,” said HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi). “I really do support this initiative, with the exception of gaming [facilities].”

The report included an array of information related to implementing smoke-free policies on the Nation such as: economic structures, American Indian health data, ethics, and an analysis of the study’s focus groups.

Yazzie stated that NATO CAP recruited study participants at chapter houses, faith-based locations, schools, social service agencies, and government offices. The study’s data collectors consisted of a bi-cultural team who used a collaborative consensus approach to analyze the data.

The study found that participants were confused about the concept of health care costs, that tobacco-related health care costs were unknown, and that many were unaware that the Navajo Nation did not already have a smoke-free law.

“Our people travel off the reservation quite frequently. They are exposed to off-reservation businesses, and assume we have non-smoking laws here on the Navajo Nation,” said Yazzie.

According to Yazzie’s presentation, survey questions were categorized into three sections: economic impacts of smoking in the workplace, health effects of second hand smoke, and blending economic and health effects of second hand smoke.

“I am going to support your work, but do not forget to include the Diné concept of health and wellness,” said HEHSC member Council Delegate Kenneth Maryboy (Mexican Water, Aneth,

Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa). “Our Navajo philosophy is what we should carry in all of our policies.”

Delegate Butler asked if NATO CAP referenced the Arizona or New Mexico non-smoking laws and requested that the group consider the smoke filtration system that the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise has invested in.

“The Gaming Enterprise has installed smoke filters in our casinos, it helps take out a lot of the smoke from public areas,” said Delegate Butler. “I cannot stress anymore that I support your cause.”

In response, Yazzie said the group is using its knowledge and research to prevent Navajo people from smoking commercial tobacco, which includes the teaching of Sa’ah Naaghai Bik’eh Hoozhoo within the realms of family, economics, environment and ethics.

The HEHSC voted to accept the report with a vote of 3-0.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



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September 20, 2013

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## **Resources and Development Committee discusses feral horse round up and reviews the proposed Navajo Rangeland Improvement Act**

**TSE BONITO, N.M.** – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee discussed an expenditure and progress report from the Navajo Department of Agriculture department manager Leo Watchman regarding the feral horse round up.

“The prime time to act was as soon as the legislation was signed, before the rainy season and when these horses were gathering at the water holes,” said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle), referencing Legislation No. 0202-13 which was passed by the Navajo Nation Council and signed by President Ben Shelly on July 25.

Watchman stated that approximately 1,100 horses have been captured at a cost close to \$700 per horse and that laborers have covered over 7,000 miles of terrain.

Although the cost per horse is relatively high, the department is still awaiting the delivery of essential equipment needed for the capture of horses. Watchman also stated that the initiative has educated livestock owners about feral horses, livestock permitting, and effective management.

“According to the report, there is 64,000 horses out there. That means the Nation will need to spend \$40 million just to capture them,” said Delegate Pete. “Maybe we should offer \$90 per head, no questions. If you chase it down, just drop it off and we’ll pick it up. That might be a better way to spend the budget.”

Council Delegate David Tom (Beclabito, Cove, Gad’i’áhi/To’Koi, Red Valley, Sheepsprings, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz’t’l’í) questioned the round up efforts in the Eastern Navajo Agency and asked if the department was being sensitive to complaints by local residents.

In response, Watchman said his employees follow the department’s policies and procedures while interacting with the public to deter and subside any confrontation. He also added that the Eastern Navajo Agency has created challenges due to checkerboard land status areas.

“In Eastern Agency there is a different land status. They have Bureau of Land Management lands, Indian allotments and trust land,” said Watchman. “This makes our efforts a little more difficult due to jurisdictional agreements.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake)

recommended that the department pause the round up operation until the end of winter and after an assessment of current practices and expenditures is completed.

The RDC accepted the report with a vote of 4-0.

The RDC also held a special meeting in Window Rock on Thursday, regarding the proposed Navajo Rangeland Improvement Act, formerly known as the Navajo Grazing Act.

The proposed NRIA, presented by Navajo Department of Justice attorney Bidtah Becker and Ray Castillo with the Navajo Department of Agriculture, seeks to revise and improve grazing permit guidelines and procedures to strengthen grazing laws.

“We need to identify the goals and implementation process of this proposed draft,” said RDC vice chair Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill).

Watchman stated that the Navajo Department of Agriculture is working to dissolve the grazing board system and implement Range Conservation Officers.

RCO’s would be full-time employees charged with the same responsibilities as grazing officials, in addition to protecting the ecological health of the land by emphasizing the proper management of rangelands from a scientific perspective.

“I found that almost 8,000 grazing permit holders do not use their permits properly,” said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake). “Instead, they use it as an excuse to tell others ‘This is my land,’ and prevent young Navajo families from moving back to Navajoland.”

Delegate Tsosie added that permit holders often do not allow families to obtain homesite leases on their grazing areas, and recommended that permits being used improperly be cancelled to allow families to begin the process of obtaining homesite leases.

“The problem is we do not have strong enforcement of the grazing laws,” said Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock). “[Grazing] officials are more worried about getting elected than enforcing grazing laws.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, Delegate Smith asked the department to continue working on the Navajo Rangeland Improvement Act and to incorporate the RDC’s concerns and recommendations.

The RDC voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



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For Immediate Release  
Sept. 18, 2013

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## Navajo President Shelly Applauds Timely Response to Emergency Calls

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly applauded the timely response from various law enforcement agencies as authorities dealt with two suspicious packages that were treated as possible improvised explosive devices.

About 8 a.m., Navajo police were summoned to the Prosecutors Office in the Window Rock Police Station because of a suspicious package that was found. The package was wrapped in duct tape and was the size of a shoebox.

Authorities treated the package as a possible IED and evacuated the Navajo Police Department that housed nearly 300 people shortly after authorities arrived on scene.

Workers from the Department of Public Safety, the Navajo Police Department, the Prosecutor's Office, Window Rock District Court and inmates were all evacuated and authorities closed Window Rock Blvd. to create a safe zone.

A bomb inspector from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the New Mexico State Police Bomb Squad, were called to investigate the first package at the police department.

Bomb squads arrived in Window Rock shortly before 11 a.m. Using x-ray technology; bomb experts determined the package was not explosive in nature.

However, another call regarding a suspicious package was responded to shortly after 12 p.m. at the Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise store in Window Rock. Authorities quickly determined the package was non-explosive.

"I want to thank all the responding authorities who put the safety of people first. We always need to exercise caution when suspicious activity is involved, especially when it means putting the lives of people on the line. We can't be too safe in those situations," President Shelly said.

Navajo Nation Public Safety Division Director John Billison added that he was thankful that law enforcement agents responded quickly.

“We train to respond to incidents in a timely manner. Today, we did so. Though the packages were found to be non-explosive, the responding officers did an excellent job at helping where they were needed,” Billison said.

“Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, Navajo Housing Authority and the Navajo Government also need to be commended for their help and coordination as we redirected traffic through local neighborhoods, as well as other local law enforcement agencies,” Billison added.

Deputies from Apache County Sheriff’s Office and McKinley County Sheriff’s Office also responded and helped direct traffic and create a safe zone.

Authorities are actively investigating the incident.

###

## Airport Management hosts air medical transport groups



*Navajo Division of Transportation Department of Airport Management is hosting a "Meet and Greet with Air Transportation Companies" at the Navajo Transportation Complex today. The public is welcome to attend. The discussions are available via live streaming, view link below. (Photo by Rick Abasta)*

**WHAT** : Meet and Greet with Air Transportation Companies

**WHERE** : Navajo Transportation Complex  
Tse Bonito, New Mexico

**WHEN** : Wednesday, September 18, 2013  
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**ONLINE** : <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/navajo-dot>



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 17, 2013

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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**Naabik'iyátí' Committee approves enabling  
legislation to implement a 911 emergency response system**

**WINDOW ROCK** – During a special meeting held on Monday afternoon, Naabik'iyátí' Committee members approved Legislation No. 0212-13, to amend Title 2 and Title 21 of the Navajo Nation Code to authorize the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission to implement and manage a 911 emergency response system within the Navajo Nation.

Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels), legislation co-sponsor, presented the legislation and asked for support to begin the long-awaited establishment of a 911-system.

“Many of our rural communities do not have access to 911 services and we need to begin this process to save lives,” said Delegate Hale.

According to the legislation, emergency calls are currently handled through administrative telephone lines that do not identify the caller and do not provide their address, making it difficult for first responders to locate victims in an emergency.

Also speaking in support of the legislation was Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat), who offered clarification regarding questions over whether the legislation was a duplication of a previous legislation brought before the 21<sup>st</sup> Council.

“That resolution was basically identifying [NNTRC] to help coordinate,” explained Delegate Shepherd. “Now we want to take it to the next step which is giving them the authority to manage and implement this system.”

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) addressed the need for cell phone towers to provide phone services, specifically for the elderly, living in remote areas.

“If we do the bond finance, we should put a bunch of money in there for towers that Navajo Nation will own,” said Delegate Tsosie. “You see the United States owning towers, the state of New Mexico owning towers, and we need to do the same for these types of communications. “

Delegate Tsosie urged his committee colleagues to work beyond the enabling legislation and to produce tangible results.

“The true needs of Navajo people are not being tended to. Instead we’re funding more stipends, rather than funding these types of set-ups,” said Delegate Tsosie. “These aren’t cheap, they’re going to cost money, but it is worth it to protect Navajo People in time of emergencies.”

After nearly an hour of discussion, Naabik’iyáti’ Committee members voted to approve the legislation with a vote of 11-0.

Legislation No. 0212-13 now moves on to the Navajo Nation Council for final consideration.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 17, 2013

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**Law and Order Committee approves report on public safety activities at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, the Law and Order committee approved a report regarding the public safety activities taking place at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, located approximately 24-miles east of Flagstaff, Ariz.

According to the report, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise legal counsel Michelle Dodson, states that the Arizona State Gaming Compact between the Navajo Nation and the Arizona Department of Gaming requires that a law enforcement, fire safety/suppression, medical emergency, and security operation plan be implemented at gaming sites.

“We have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety to be present at the casino at all times and respond to all local calls,” said Dodson.

“Currently, with the shortage of manpower, police coverage has been lacking and is costing us \$25,000 per month.”

LOC vice chair and former law enforcement officer, Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) sympathized with the NNGE regarding the lack of manpower and shift rotation of police officers.

“We can develop an improved rotating shift schedule of Navajo officers and ask for assistance from the Coconino County Police Department, to ensure efficient coverage of the gaming site,” said Delegate Shepherd.

Delegate Shepherd also recommended that the LOC meet with Coconino County officials to develop a cross-commissioning agreement between the county and the Navajo Nation.

Dodson said in order to comply with Arizona gaming laws, law enforcement and fire safety must be on the gaming premises 24/7, while noting that the majority of public safety calls are criminal and alcohol-related incidents.

“As a committee, we want to tax alcohol in the casino so that funding revenue can be diverted to public safety and social services programs,” said LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie

(Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau). "This will improve cost-sharing between NNGE and NNDPS."

Other concerns for NNGE include transporting offenders from the casino to jail facilities, emergency response time, developing a future plan for a police/fire substation, and getting support to propose a fire safety fund management plan that would begin the process of obtaining resources for fire personnel, said Dodson.

"I see that NNGE has submitted or will submit an application to the Navajo Nation Capital Improvement Office to be added to the capital projects list, but how soon were you hoping to obtain a substation?" asked LOC member Council Delegate Duane Tsinigine (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'bii'to, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake).

Dodson said NNGE hopes to be included in the FY2015 CIO funding list, however, the substation is needed as soon as possible. Going through a private developer is too expensive and completing a capital projects proposal with the aid of NNDPS would move the project forward, added Dodson.

"We have not heard from the fire department and I think it is important to involve them in these discussions to better develop and implement these public safety plans so the Nation is in compliance with the ADOG," said Delegate Yazzie.

At the end of the discussion, LOC members commended NNGE for their diligence and strive to improve public safety for casino and resort guests, and for establishing a helipad for medical emergencies.

At the conclusion of the discussion, LOC voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Rose Whitehair  
Navajo Department of Emergency Management  
(928) 871-6892  
September 15, 2013; 9:21 p.m.

**MEDIA ALERT**

Public Service Announcement

## **EFFORTS TO RELIEVE PRESSURE AT CROWNPOINT DAM SUCCESSFUL**

Water has been pumped out of the Old PHS Dam and the water levels have lowered. However, flash flood warnings remain for the area and residents are advised to be prepared for more rain until Wednesday.

The dam in the northeast part of town was stabilized due to immediate response from Navajo interagency efforts of Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Water Resources, BIA Eastern Navajo Agency, Navajo Police Department, Crownpoint Fire Department, Department of Emergency Management, Division of Health, Office of the President and the Local Governance Service Committee, Indian Health Service, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Navajo Technical University.

The area of concern for flash flooding from the dam is the old hospital housing area and mobile homes north of the Old PHS Dam. Other potential areas of water run-off are Crownpoint Elementary School, NHA Housing, Navajo Technical University, Fleet Management, NTUA sewer lagoons and businesses near NM Hwy 371 and Navajo Route 9.

The Navajo Nation is working with the New Mexico Emergency Operations Center, McKinley County Emergency Management, McKinley County Sheriff's Office and the American Red Cross to provide assistance. We are actively pumping the water out and breaching parts of the dam to relieve pressure. Local volunteers and the New Mexico Department of Corrections are also on scene filling sandbags as quickly as possible.

Emergency Personnel are on-site actively stabilizing and continue to monitor the situation. **At this time we are advised that the dam is stabilized.** Continue to listen to the radio and television for weather updates.

For precautionary measures:

- Please instruct children to stay out of the canals/washes.
- If you are directed by authorities to evacuate your area, please do so.
- Do not attempt to drive across creeks or flooded roads.
- Be prepared and have a Family Emergency Plan and Go-Kit.

###



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For Immediate Release  
Sept. 13, 2013

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## Navajo President Shelly Assures People Navajo Nation is Responding to Flood Emergencies

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said the Navajo Nation is responding to flash flooded areas throughout the Navajo Nation.

“Though we are thankful for the rain we have received, I want our people to know that the Navajo Nation programs and departments are responding to calls regarding flash flooding. Please be careful and don’t drive or cross flooded roadways. We want everyone to make through the rains safely,” President Shelly said.



A family near Tse Bonito, N.M. waits for their children stranded on the other side of the wash Friday afternoon after a rainstorm caused water to flow over the bridge. Nobody was injured or no property was reportedly damaged. The children were picked up by nearby relatives.

President Shelly has been getting regular updates about flooded communities throughout the week.

Since July nearly 60 chapters have reported to the Navajo Department of Emergency seeking assistance for damages occurred as a result of flooding. Issues have been from road washouts, road closures, rescue operations, shelter for flood victims and road clearing.



In Rock Point, Ariz., flood waters cut off several homes from U.S. Hwy. 191 Wednesday afternoon. People with critical health conditions were air lifted from their homes.

President Shelly signed a declaration of emergency in August regarding the flooding and plans are to update the declaration for recent flood events.

“We need everyone to exercise caution and be alert to their surroundings. Though it might not be raining in your area, it can be raining in areas upstream,” said Navajo Department of Emergency Management Director Rose Whitehair.

Whitehair added that it is difficult to predict what areas would

experience flash flooding since most of the flooding happens after short bursts of intense rain.

“And with the long term drought, the ground is hard so there is no where for the water to go,” Whitehair said.

Since Monday, nearly 50 chapters have called for assistance in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Chinle was hardest hit by the floods as 22 people had to be evacuated from their homes. The flood continued downstream to Many Farms and Rock Point where another 40 people were either evacuated or rescued. In Tonalea, Ariz, officials reported that 20 homes were damaged due to flooding.

“I want our people to know we are working with several different agencies to ensure that our people are safe and their basic needs are met,” President Shelly said.

County and state emergency departments have all been coordinating efforts with the Navajo Department of Emergency Management along with the Red Cross, the Hopi Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“I want to thank all the first responders and agencies for working together. I know you are all working hard but remember the work you are doing is for the good of all the people in need. We are a strong nation and we will endure through these difficult times,” President Shelly said.

Navajo DEM and chapters are working according to a declaration of emergency that President Shelly signed in August.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 13, 2013

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## **Resources and Development Committee approves legislation to take an 85 acres of land in Tse Bonito into Trust**

**TOHAJIILEE, N.M.** – On Thursday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0255-13 which proposes to sign the general warranty deed for 85 acres of land, in Tse Bonito to the United States to be held in trust for the Navajo Nation, pursuant to P.L. 93-531 and P.L. 96-305.

“This legislation is very simple, this property is another piece of land that the Navajo Division of Transportation was able to obtain through a land exchange with the state of New Mexico,” said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii). “We would like to take this land into trust and lease it to NDOT.”

Delegate Phelps further explained that the land would be taken into trust through a provision of the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Act. According to the Act, the lands taken into trust shall be used solely for the benefit of Navajo families residing on Hopi-partitioned lands.

“Any proceeds that we receive from the lease will be directed to the relocatee funds,” said Delegate Phelps. “The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission is working to develop a fund management plan for the leasing revenue.”

NDOT division director Paulson Chaco explained that leasing the land to NDOT would create revenue for the relocatee fund as well as save NDOT rental fees.

“If we were to lease this land from the space, we would have to make a bid close to \$10 million along with state fees and taxes,” said Chaco. “This is a deal we are both comfortable with. The funds will be coming from our budget.”

Following the presentation, RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) asked if the Nation was still capable of taking an additional 9,000 acres into trust under the NHSA.

Delegate Phelps explained that the NHLC was exploring various properties to acquire and that NHLC members also determined that the NHSA process was the most feasible way to place the land into trust.

“It is my understanding that Congress is proposing to do away with the Office of Navajo Hopi Indian Relocation. We need to discuss how to take the remaining 9,000 acres into trust,” said

Delegate Tsosie. "If they do away with the ONHIR office, the Navajo Hopi Settlement Act will be an empty law. Without the office we will not have this process."

Prior to voting on the main motion, Delegate Phelps added that the NHLC is working tediously to inform members of Congress that the ONHIR is a necessary tool for the Navajo Nation, and that there is still work to be done to assist relocatees.

The RDC approved Legislation No. 0255-13 with a vote of 4-0.

Legislation No. 0255-13 is now goes on to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee for final consideration.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 13, 2013

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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**Delegates attend signing ceremony for legislation that  
will provide funding to construct homes for Navajo Veterans**



**Photo: From left to right, Council Delegate Danny Simpson, Council Delegate Jonathan Hale, Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd, President Ben Shelly, and Speaker Johnny Naize**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Friday afternoon, several Council Delegates including Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) attended a signing ceremony at President Ben Shelly’s office for resolution CS-48-13, amending 12 N.N.C. §1171, the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund to provide funding for the construction of 15 homes and to provide minor repairs and renovations for Navajo Veterans in each of the Nation’s five agencies, over the course of four years.

Legislation prime sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) expressed appreciation for each of the entities involved in developing and approving the legislation.

“I’m very thankful that the President saw the importance of this legislation,” said Delegate Shepherd. “I also want to thank the Vice President [Rex Lee Jim], who was instrumental in the beginning along with the Department of Veterans Affairs and above all, we want to thank the Veterans who have given their input and helped us reach this point.”

Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) who co-sponsored the legislation, thanked previous and current delegates for helping Navajo Veterans and urged all parties to continue to work together to make the project a success.

“Today, we’ve taken a major step toward bringing homes to our Navajo Veterans,” said Speaker Naize. “This signifies years of work and progress by various parties on behalf of Veterans who served and protected our Diné People.”

The legislation will divert two-percent of the Trust Fund’s set-aside to the Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs to fund the construction of the homes.

Army Veteran and legislation co-sponsor, Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) said the legislation was made possible by 20<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, which established the Nation’s Veterans Trust Fund.

“I want to thank members of the 20<sup>th</sup> Council for establishing the Trust Fund,” said Delegate Simpson. “Bringing homes to our Veterans would not be possible without their efforts.”

Following the signing ceremony, Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) expressed his appreciation for the passage of the legislation and said he will continue to advocate for Navajo Veterans.

“It’s a long time coming to build homes for our warriors,” Delegate Hale said.

The legislation was approved by the Navajo Nation Council during a special session held on Monday, with a vote of 13-2.

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## **Budget and Finance Committee approves corrective action plan for the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board**

**WINDOW ROCK** - The Budget and Finance Committee on Thursday, approved the corrective action plan for the Northern Navajo Nation fair board, after an audit report was conducted and completed by the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General, for the 2012 Northern Navajo Nation Fair.

“One of the main reasons the audit was conducted was because the public requested for it when allegations and concerns were brought up to our committee regarding the fair,” said BFC chair Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

According to the audit report provided by Auditor General Elizabeth Begay, it was found that the fair lacked proper management of funds, event planning, and accountability measures.

“The intent of the CAP is to correct the deficiencies we uncovered during the 2012 NNNF,” said Begay. “The fair board is now responsible for developing, implementing, and the outcome of the CAP.”

The CAP aims to improve the overall management of the fair’s events, namely the Indian market, parade, rodeo, vendor relations, and all financial related expenses such as spending, payouts, vendor fees, application fees, admissions, etc.

BFC member Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ashi, Whiterock) requested clarification as to which parties are responsible for the coordination and management of the fair, and who will assist with the CAP.

“It is hard for me to support this CAP because it is unclear which entities are involved with running the fair and who should be responsible for assisting in the plan, “ said Delegate Simpson.

Begay said the audit focused on the fair events, which were managed by the NNNFB and the Navajo Nation Museum.

“Since the Navajo Nation Museum put money into the [2012] fair and agreed to help manage the fair, they need to be included in incorporating the CAP,” said Delegate Simpson. “They have to take some responsibility for the deficiencies found in the audit report.”

Delegate Bates stated that he was not opposed to the Museum being incorporated into the CAP, and asked how the Museum would assist in carrying out the plan when they are no longer an entity involved with managing the fair.

“I think it is doable for the Museum to assist in the CAP, but we need language to allow for a transition plan which would move all responsibilities in an effective manner from the Museum to the NNNFB,” said BFC vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin).

Delegate Simpson motioned for an amendment to add a new paragraph to the corrective action plan that directs the Navajo Nation Museum to assist the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board in implementing the CAP.

BFC voted 3-0 to pass the amendment.

At the conclusion of the BFC meeting, Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tse Ch’izhi) said, “The Navajo Nation should keep their hands away from running the fairs and leave it up to the fair boards, and allow them to manage/coordinate the fairs.”

BFC voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0150-13.

The Budget and Finance Committee is the final authority for the legislation.

###

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September 13, 2013

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**Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discusses future Navajo Head Start employee lay-offs, re-assignments, and new hires**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received a report from the Navajo Head Start Agency, regarding the projected lay-offs, employee re-assignments, and their struggles to hire qualified employees due to the lack of candidates with federally mandated credentials.

In August 2008, the National Head Start Office notified the Navajo Head Start Agency that teachers, teacher aides, and assistants must possess specified credentials, and requiring that at least 50-percent of head start teachers have at least a bachelors degree in early childhood education, by Sept. 30 of this year.

"These lay-offs are due to the National Head Start regulations, which require employees to acquire certain credentials by the given deadlines," said HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels). "These regulations are written in the Head Start grant we accepted. We must comply with the agreement."

In Oct. 2011, each Head Start classroom teacher was required to have at least an associates degree in early childhood education. Since then, Head Start credentials have increased in order to build a more qualified workforce.

Navajo Head Start assistant superintendent Sharon H. Singer, addressed the committee to clarify the agency's actions.

"In order to be in compliance with federal requirements, the Navajo Head Start Agency is proactively working to build a highly-qualified workforce," said Singer. "Head Start pays 100-percent of the training and tuition necessary for employees to obtain the required credentials like a bachelors degree or child development associate."

In May 2012, the Navajo Head Start Office commenced a three-year restructuring process to address specific issues of non-compliance with the federal Head Start Act.

In response to the report, HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi) stated that the report clearly explained why the projected lay-offs are necessary.

“We cannot put our Head Start program in jeopardy,” said Delegate Butler. “Unfortunately it has come to this, but it is clear that the staff were well informed of what was expected of them in order to maintain this program for our Navajo children.”

EHSC members Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) and Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) requested details about the number of employees expected to be laid off and employee salary.

In response, Singer said 24 teaching positions would soon be vacant and that all employees will continue to be properly compensated for their work time leading up to Sept. 30.

“I appreciate this report from Navajo Head Start. With the September 30 deadline soon approaching, it is clear we understand the requirements set forth by the National Head Start Office,” said Delegate Butler.

The EHSC accepted the report with a vote of 4-0.

Following the report, Delegate Hale suggested that Head Start also provide a thorough report to the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee for all delegates to have a clear understanding of changes soon to occur in their local Head Start centers.

###

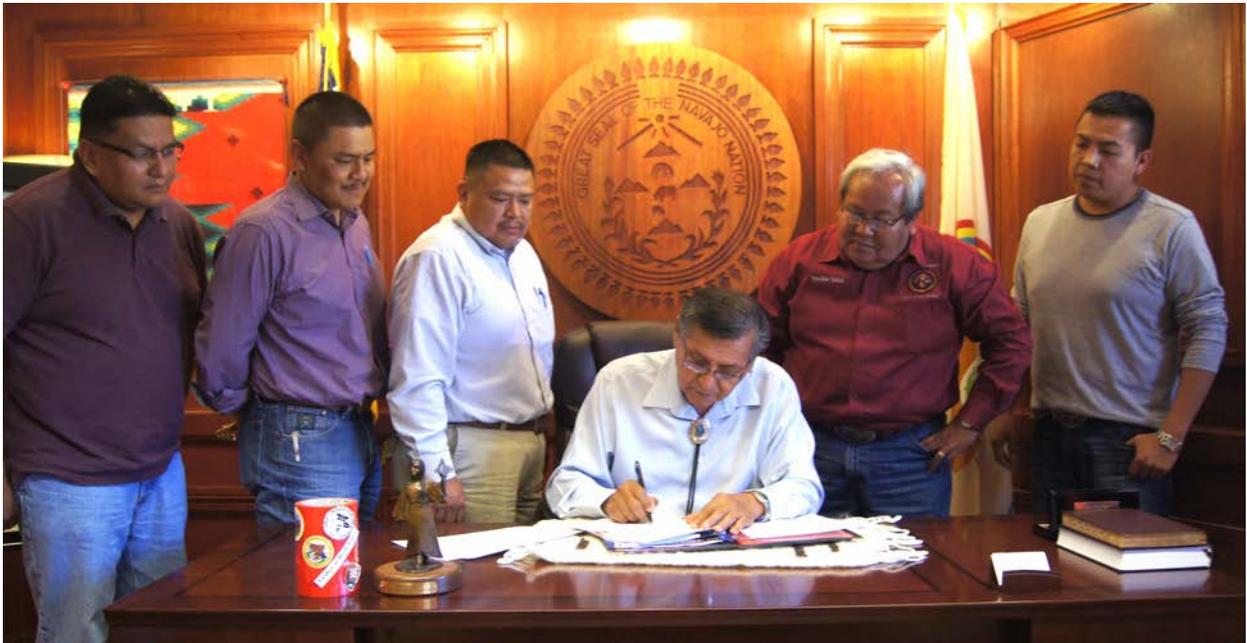
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For Immediate Release  
Sept. 13, 2013

## Navajo President Shelly Signs Veterans' Trust Fund Amendments



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly (center) signs legislation while Navajo Speaker Johnny Naize (right center) watches. (From left to right) Council Delegates Danny Simpson, Jonathan Hale and Alton Shepard view the signing along with President Shelly's executive staff members (far right) Benny Francisco.

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed legislation Friday afternoon that provides funding for as many as 75 new homes for Navajo veterans on the Navajo Nation.

“Today, we recognize the needs of our warriors, our veterans on the Navajo Nation,” said President Shelly before he signed legislation CS-48-13.

The legislation, co-sponsored by Navajo Council Speaker Johnny Naize and Council Delegate Alton Shepard, amends the allocations to the Navajo Veterans Trust Fund. The bill allocates four percent of Navajo revenue to be equally split between the Navajo Veterans Trust Fund and the Department of Navajo Veterans' Affairs.

The money going to the Department of Navajo Veterans' Affairs would be for housing. The DNVA office would split their allocated money equally with the five agencies on the Navajo Nation and each agency would be responsible to use the money to build as many as 15 homes for Navajo veterans.

"We have to take care of our veterans. They risked their lives for our freedom and to defend our people," President Shelly said.

The revenue distribution would need to be reauthorized in 2017. Until then, the trust fund and the DNVA would split as much as \$7 million depending upon revenue forecasts. Revenues from taxes, oil and gas mining and minerals, timber, land rentals and other revenue producing activity would be shared with the trust fund and the DNVA office.

Speaker Naize, Council Delegates Shepard, Jonathan Hale, and Danny Simpson were all present during the signing ceremony.

"I appreciate the signing of this legislation," Speaker Naize said after President Shelly signed the legislation.

"To our veterans, I want to thank each and every one of you for the sacrifices you made for our country and our people. You helped make this Navajo way of life possible," President Shelly said.

###



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE;**

**Contact:** Sonlatsa Jim-Martin

Navajo Division of Health

(928) 871-6968

September 13, 2013 – 11:30 am

**Operation Storm Surge in effect on Navajo Nation  
Volunteers Needed**

CHINLE, AZ – Operation Storm Surge 2013 has been in effect on the Navajo Nation due to flooding caused by heavy rain in the Central Agency area. Arizona communities impacted include Chinle, Many Farms, Rock Point, Tselani/Cottonwood, Dennehotso, and Tonalea. Other regions of the Navajo Nation may be at risk with more flash flood warnings expected into the weekend.

There are approximately 50 to 80 homes within the flash flood areas and many families are out of their homes. The Navajo Nation opened a shelter in Chinle with the help of the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter. Red Cross volunteers will provide meals, snacks, bottled water and coffee, as well as cots and blankets to flooding victims, however, more volunteers are needed in these communities. Navajo families with children are sleeping outside due to mud, rain, mold and infestation. Volunteers can contact the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER at the following numbers: 505-371-8415, 505-371-8416, 505-371-8417.

Navajo Nation officials caution residents to be aware of floods and flooded roadways. Observe road closures and follow orders of local law enforcement personnel on scene. "This is for everyone's safety," Erny Zah states from the Office of the President and Vice President. Even if you feel you live in a community with a low risk of flooding, remember that anywhere it rains, it can flood. Just because you haven't experienced a flood in the past, doesn't mean you won't in the future.

In addition to the flash flood warnings, the Navajo Division of Health cautions people to be aware of mosquitoes after the rain storms. West Nile Virus (WNV) causes an infection that is spread by mosquitoes. WNV infections generally occur during warm weather months when mosquitoes are active. Puddles or open water allow for mosquitoes to breed in standing water. Mosquitoes spread the virus when they bite people or other animals, such as horses. For prevention, use mosquito repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors.

**Navajo residents should pay particular attention to water crossings and areas of heavy water flow including the following tips from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov):**

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of stream, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without typical warnings such as rain clouds or heavy rain.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly.

- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening conditions.

**Although floodwaters may be down in some areas, many dangers still exist. Here are some things to remember in the days ahead:**

- Use local alerts and warning systems to get information and expert informed advice as soon as available.
  - Avoid moving water.
  - Stay away from damaged areas unless your assistance has been specifically requested by police, fire, or relief organization.
  - Emergency workers will be assisting people in flooded areas. You can help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.
  - Play it safe. Additional flooding or flash floods can occur. Listen for local warnings and information. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, get out immediately and climb to higher ground.
  - Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
  - Roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are covered by water. Barricades have been placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way.
  - If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded. Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Flooding may have caused familiar places to change. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways. Flood debris may hide animals and broken bottles, and it's also slippery. Avoid walking or driving through it.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
  - Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
  - Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.

**A flood can cause physical hazards and emotional stress. You need to look after yourself and your family as you focus on cleanup and repair.**

- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewer systems are serious health hazards.
- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Rest often and eat well.
- Keep a manageable schedule. Make a list and do jobs one at a time.
- Discuss your concerns with others and seek help. Contact Red Cross for information on emotional support available in your area.

For prevention of West Nile Virus, use mosquito repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when you go outdoors in flooded areas.

###



# THE NAVAJO NATION

P.O. Box 2908, Window Rock, Arizona 86515 Phone: (928) 871-6892 Fax: (928) 871-7569

BEN SHELLY  
PRESIDENT

REX LEE JIM  
VICE-PRESIDENT

CEM 13-08-21

## STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

THE NAVAJO NATION COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO DAMAGES FROM AND RESPONSE TO TORRENTIAL MONSOONAL FLOODING THROUGHOUT THE NAVAJO NATION

### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C, §§ 881 and 883 (A) and (C), the Navajo Nation Council established the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) to coordinate emergency and disaster relief service by Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management; and to recommend to the Navajo Nation Council legislation or other appropriate activity regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C, § 884 (B) (1), the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) is responsible for declaring a Navajo Nation state of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C, § 884 (B) (2), the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management will assist in seeking assistance from federal, state, and other tribal governments, local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. Navajo Nation wide, the on-going drought has intensified adverse impacts related to the significantly dry conditions and the monsoonal torrential rains have further compounded the dual drought and flooding conditions; and
5. The Navajo Nation has sustained damages exceeding the million dollar threshold for a FEMA major disaster declaration for incidents occurring; and
6. Twenty-one chapters in Arizona have sustained damages; they are, but not limited to: Dilkon, Fort Defiance, Kaibeto, Gap/Bodaway, LeChee, Kayenta, Coppermine, Shonto, Rough Rock, Dennehotso, Chilchinbeto, Indian Wells, White Cone, Lower Greasewood Springs, Mexican Water, Pinon, St. Michaels, Wide Ruins, Steamboat, Window Rock, and Wheatfields, and

7. Twenty-six chapters in New Mexico have sustained damages; they are, but not limited to: Becenti, Bread Springs, Churchrock, Red Lake, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Iyanbito, Burnham, Lake Valley, Mexican Springs, Casamero Lake, Smith Lake, Twin Lakes, Tohatchi, Naschitti, Newcomb, Whitehorse Lake, Ojo Encino, Torreon, White Rock, Crownpoint, Baca-Prewitt, Ramah, Tohajiillee', and Counselor; and
8. Six chapters or areas in Utah have sustained damages; they are, but not limited to: Aneth, Oljato, Navajo Mountain, Paiute Mesa, Red Mesa, and Sweetwater; and
9. Approximately 50 earthen dams, excluding those Federally listed dams under the Safety of Dams, that exist on the Navajo Nation were breached due to torrential rainfall causing massive erosion downstream impacting community infrastructure; and
10. The following Navajo Nation programs have sustained damages; they are, but not limited to: Navajo Division of General Service's Fleet Management (Window Rock); Motor pool and Body Shop (Window Rock); Navajo Environmental Protection Agency (Window Rock); Department of Justice (Window Rock); Navajo Council Chambers (Window Rock); Navajo Nation Zoo (Window Rock); Navajo Tribal Utility Authority; and Bureau of Indian Affairs administratively withdrawn areas (Window Rock HQ), and
11. The following Navajo Nation programs and non-tribal entities have responded or provided emergency protective measures; they are, but not limited to: Navajo Division of General Service (Navajo Nation-wide); Navajo Division of Health; Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo Nation-wide); Department of Water Development, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority; Navajo Law Enforcement/DEM (Navajo Nation-wide); Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority; Navajo Housing Authority; Indian Health Services; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Arizona State and respective counties therein: Apache and Navajo; New Mexico State and respective counties therein: McKinley, San Juan, Bernalillo and Cibola; Utah State and respective county therein: San Juan; and
12. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicates that much of the Navajo Nation has received over 150% of the normal amount of precipitation so far, with a significant portion of Coconino County and Navajo County receiving almost 200% (double) the normal monsoonal rainfall; and

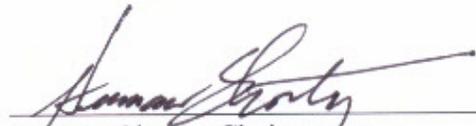
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management declares a state of emergency due to damages from and response to torrential monsoonal flooding throughout the Navajo Nation; and
2. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management finds it is necessary for appropriate Navajo Nation entities continue and/or immediately begin and maintain coordination and collaboration with relevant agencies for use of resources to meet the needs of the Navajo Nation public; and

3. The Navajo Nation shall activate available emergency resources such as funding, community education, assistance, and other means as determined fit and feasible to restore and sustain vital community infrastructure.

### CERTIFICATION

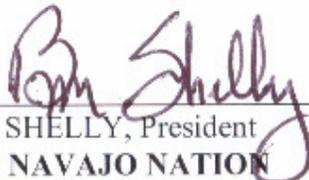
We hereby certify that the foregoing declaration was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Herman Shorty, Chairperson  
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion: Lt. Emerson Lee

Second: Eugenia Quintana

### CONCURRENCE:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BEN SHELLY, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 11, 2013

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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**Rock Point Chapter declares emergency due to severe flooding**

**Rock Point, Ariz.** – On Wednesday morning, Rock Point Chapter declared an emergency due to heavy rains in surrounding communities which have led to severe flooding and damaged roadways in the rural community, located approximately 50-miles north of Chinle.

Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch'izhi) who represents the rural community of approximately 700 people, said the flooding began Tuesday night and left some residents stranded and unable to return to their homes.

“Last night, they got hit hard by the flooding from heavy rains in Lukachukai, Chinle, Round Rock, Wheatfields, Nazlini, and Sawmill,” said Delegate BeGaye, explaining that Rock Point receives much of the rain water from surrounding communities, resulting in downstream flooding.

Although the chapter has received assistance from the Chinle Police Department and Apache County, Delegate BeGaye said he is seeking the help of President Ben Shelly in declaring an emergency on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

“An emergency has to be declared by President Shelly in order to pursue [Federal Emergency Management Agency] funds,” Delegate BeGaye stated.

Rock Point Chapter president Janice Jim, said the chapter is in need of food and water for local residents and for the volunteers who are helping to sandbag the flooded areas.

“The chapter will be open 24/7 tonight and most likely tomorrow,” said Jim. “We have some food and water for tonight, but we don’t have other supplies.”

Jim also noted that the Rock Point Community School was closed on Wednesday due to the flooding, and will likely be closed again on Thursday.

According to Delegate BeGaye, the Rock Point Chapter has one grader that is currently being used to fix damaged roads in the area, and expects additional equipment from the Navajo Division of Transportation to reach the area on Thursday morning.

“We’ve had a lot of residents calling the chapter for assistance,” said Delegate BeGaye. “We need all the help we can get.”

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 11, 2013

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## **Navajo Nation Council amends the Veterans Trust Fund for the construction of homes for Navajo Veterans**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0193-13, amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust fund, 12 N.N.C. §1171.

The amendments provide for the equal distribution of the annual comprehensive budgeted amount between the Navajo Nation Veterans Affairs Trust Fund and the Department of Navajo Veteran Affairs, to construct 15 homes and to provide minor renovations and repairs for Navajo Veterans in each of the five agencies for the next four years.

“This is the final stage and I am asking for your support to implement a seed that will help foster providing homes for the veterans,” said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat). “With this legislation we are amending the laws to allow for the mechanism to take place.”

Following the sponsor’s presentation, Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) introduced an amendment to maximize the use of funds.

“If they are not able to spend the dollars before a fiscal year ends, those unexpended dollars will go back into the Veterans Trust Fund and we are unable to use them,” said Delegate Bates. “This amendment would allow for those [unexpended] dollars to go back into the construction of those houses.”

Delegate Shepherd added that the legislation assigns a business unit number to each of the 15 recipients to ensure accountability.

“I support this amendment because I know that if we are using nine individuals to build fifteen homes, this will help keep the funds moving on to the following year,” said Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock). “It’s going to be difficult to build these homes within the time line and we need to finish each project in a timely manner.”

The Council approved the amendment with a vote of 13-0.

Although the Council unanimously supported the amendment, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreón,

Whitehorse Lake) expressed concern about the number of chapters that would be assisted in the Eastern Navajo Agency.

“If fifteen chapters get assistance and homes, that means 4 chapters won’t,” said Delegate Tsosie.

Speaking in support of the legislation, Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) said the current veterans housing services available through the Navajo Housing Authority are inadequate and that the legislation would help to alleviate the high need for housing across the Nation.

“We need to take a risk in order to see the benefits of veterans housing. If we sit here and ridicule the legislation we will only wish from the sidelines with our veterans,” said Delegate Hale. “I think we need to vote on this, support it, and give it a chance.”

Before the vote on the main motion, Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch’ izhi) stated, “The veterans need to be notified that this is their money, this does not belong to the central government or even the agencies. We are doing this for them.”

Council members voted to approved Legislation No. 0193-13 with a vote of 13-2.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 10, 2013

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**Law and Order Committee approves report regarding the partial closure of the Department of Corrections Crownpoint District facility**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee accepted an update report from the Navajo Nation Department of Corrections Crownpoint District supervisor David Charles.

“I am disappointed to report that I had to shut down a portion of the jail and only intake is operating, which is the drunk tank,” said Charles.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) expressed frustration regarding the lack of funding to staff the new jail facility, as well as a lack of involvement from public safety division leaders.

“Obviously, there is a lack of interest by supervisors because [LOC] has always asked division directors what assistance they need, and they would always tell us everything is fine,” said Delegate Yazzie.

“We build this beautiful building in Crownpoint and we are already shutting it down,” said Delegate Yazzie. “The lack of preparedness for this new building should have been addressed before it was even built and it frustrates the committee that leadership did not bring this to our attention sooner.”

LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) expressed skepticism regarding the public safety administration, adding that there needs to be an immediate response to the partial shut-down from Navajo Nation Department of Corrections director Delores Greyeyes and Navajo Nation Public Safety Division director John Billison.

The Crownpoint District corrections facility shut down its male holding pod due to the funding shortfall, stated Charles. Inmates with non-alcohol related crimes are being held in the same area, but the majority of them are booked and then released.

“I only have 8 officers currently staffing the jail in Crownpoint and this facility needs 51 officers to be fully operational at an effective level,” said Charles.

To avoid a complete shut down of the facility, LOC member Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) suggested seeking funding during the Council Budget Session.

“We can get a budget form to try and get the facility operational again because we know the money is there on an emergency basis,” said Delegate Begaye.

Delegate Shepherd added that DOC would be a priority in the FY2014 Navajo Nation budget.

At the conclusion of the LOC meeting, members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

During Council’s budget session, Delegate Begaye motioned to consider emergency legislation, seeking to obtain a supplemental appropriation for approximately \$16,000 from the Nation’s Personnel Lapse fund.

Delegate Begaye’s motion to add the item to Council’s agenda failed to garner enough supporting votes, or two-thirds of Council’s approval, resulting with a vote of 13-4.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 10, 2013

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**Speaker Naize takes part in dedication of a new U.S. Post Office in Nazlini**



**Photo:** From left to right, Phneiltr Beyale (postmaster), Judy Donaldson (Community Services Coordinator), Charlene Wallace (Accounts Maintenance Specialist), Nathan Sam (custodian), Johnson Claw (Nazlini Chapter President), Speaker Johnny Naize, Esther Shorty (postmaster), JoAnn Dedman (Chapter secretary/treasurer), Ruth Brenner (community member), Andy Mann (CLUP member), and community members Roy Nells and Leroy Belin.

**Nazlini, Ariz.** – On Monday morning, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) welcomed chapter officials, staff, and community members to the newly opened U.S. Post Office in Nazlini, located approximately 19-miles north of Ganado, Ariz.

Speaker Naize praised the efforts of current and previous Nazlini Chapter staff who overcame many obstacles over the course of nearly a decade to establish the new 896 square-foot facility.

“This is a small rural community, but it took a lot of time and effort to work through the red tape just to get to this stage,” said Speaker Naize.

According to Nazlini Chapter Secretary and Treasurer JoAnn Dedman, the post office was once housed in a local trading post until the owner closed the business in 2002, forcing community members to travel to the nearest post office in Ganado.

Nazlini chapter officials then agreed to a contract with the U.S. Postal Service that temporarily returned postal services to Nazlini residents at their chapter house. However, following an audit conducted by the Navajo Nation Auditor General's Office, the contract was deemed unlawful.

Dedman said Speaker Naize played an instrumental role in bringing together the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and the U.S. Postal Service to negotiate a new contract and also in obtaining funds to enable the establishment of the new post office.

"Mr. Naize was able to secure \$150,000 through the [Resources and Development Committee] to fund the construction of the new post office," said Dedman.

Nazlini Chapter President Johnson Claw, said the U.S. Postal Service's ongoing financial losses will not impact the Nazlini Post Office because it is mostly a self-sustaining entity.

"We only receive a little over \$600 a month from the U.S. Postal Service and most of that goes toward the salary of the postmaster," said Claw. "Due to limited funding, the postmaster is only able to operate the post office for four hours a day."

Chapter officials sought donations and held fundraising events to make the facility fully-functional, explained Dedman.

Desks, carts, and other items were donated by Chinle Indian Health Services, added Dedman, noting that the chapter also plans to purchase vending machines to create additional revenue for the post office.

"We have to learn to be self-sustaining, that's the goal," said Dedman. "So that's what those vending machines will do. There's no store nearby and people are always looking for snacks, so that will generate a lot of money which we can invest back into operating this place."

The post office provides 500 mailboxes and other postal services for residents of Nazlini, Chinle, Wood Springs, and several other surrounding areas.

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# DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

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Ben Shelly  
President

Rex Lee Jim  
Vice-President

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Navajo Nation Board of Education is the Governing Body for Navajo Head Start

**Window Rock, Arizona.** On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the special meeting held at the North Conference Room of the Council Chamber, the Health Education and Human Service Services Committee (HEHSC) approved Legislation No. 0252-13 which designates the Navajo Nation Board of Education as the Governing Body for the Navajo Head Start. After the reading of the legislation into the legislative record, Honorable Dwight Witherspoon motioned to approve the Legislation followed by Honorable Walter Phelps seconded the motion to begin committee discussion. Members of the Navajo Board of Education attended the HEHSC special meeting. Dr. Lamont Yazzie, Principal Education Specialist, Navajo Head Start, was also available at the HEHSC special meeting.

Based on its plan of operation approved by Resolution GSCMY-19-07, the Navajo Head Start is a program under the Department of Diné Education; however, the Navajo Nation has never specifically designated a “governing body” for Navajo Head Start. During the 2010 Administration of Children and Families (ACF) federal monitoring review, the ACF stipulated that Navajo Head Start is required to conduct regular reporting to its governing body.

The federal Head Start Act stipulates that the governing body may be an entity composed of “members who oversee a public entity and are selected to their positions with the public entity by public election or political appointment”. The Navajo Nation Board of Education is composed of elected and appointment officials; thus, meeting the requirement of the federal Head Start Act.

On January 8, 2013, during a work session, a discussion surfaced concerning the need to identify and designate a “governing body for the Navajo Head Start”. It was in that discussion that participants (*members of the Parent Policy Council and members of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee*) unanimously agreed that the Navajo Nation Board of Education (NNBOE) is best and able to serve as the governing body.

After thorough discussion, the Committee approved Legislation No. 0252-13 by a unanimous vote of five in favor and zero opposed. The Legislation is supported by resolutions from Navajo Head Start Policy Council and NNBOE, and by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Navajo Nation and Office of Head Start. For additional information on the Navajo Head Start’s governing body, contact Ms. Dawn Yazzie (928) 871-6902.

END  
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#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*Andrew M. Tah, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools*



# DEPARTMENT OF DINÉ EDUCATION THE NAVAJO NATION

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Ben Shelly  
President

Rex Lee Jim  
Vice-President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Navajo Nation Vice President, Rex Lee Jim, Exhort Use of Information Technology at Conference: Grant Schools Meet with Department of Dine Education and the Bureau of Indian Education

**Window Rock, Arizona, September 3, 2013.** Department of Diné Education convened an informational conference meeting with Grant Schools, including School Board Members and Grant School Principals and Administrators. Over 150 participants attended the one-day conference which was held Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the Wingate High School Gymnasium from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Conference attendees included Navajo Nation Board of Education members: Jimmie C. Begay, President; Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and Gloria Johns, member. Vice President Rex Lee Jim was on hand and including Andrew Tah, the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Charles M. Roessel, Acting BIE Director, was also in attendance and sitting at the front table next to the podium. As participants arrived to the conference, Department of Diné Education staffs distributed to registered participants conference packets that contained memos, flow charts, Resolutions, and Diné Language Standards. Documents not distributed were presented to the audience using the power point presentation.

The emcee was provided by Darrick Franklin, Senior Education Specialist. At the beginning of the conference and dressed in standard military uniform, the Wingate High School ROTC Program marched across the stage in single line posting the colors of the United States Flag, the New Mexico Flag and the Navajo Nation Flag. As show of respect for the flag, the audience remained standing during the posting of the colors.

Immediately after the welcome addresses, Mr. Andrew Tah presented update information on the feasibility study. He stated: "With all the Resources that are being reduced, we all have to share some of the costs, time, and staffs, to discuss some of these needs to work with each other. That is the way to work together. Let's work together. On this way, we can open a lot of educational opportunities for our children." In a dual presentation, Dr. Charles Roessel and Mr. Andrew Tah informed the audience of the status of the NNDODE and BIE partnership activities and projects.

In another joint-team presentation, Darrick Franklin, Senior Education Specialist, and Dr. John McIntosh, Associate Superintendent of BIE School Improvement, presented update information on the "Turn Around Project". The "Turn Around Project" includes several key components, such as:

- UDP – Using Date Process in the "Turn Around Project" Collaboration which as eloquently presented by Dr. Kalvin White, Program Manager ;
- Enhancement Funds was presented by Dr. Charles Roessel; and

-More-

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### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Andrew M. Tah, M.Ed., **Superintendent of Schools***

- Elements of an Effective School, was presented by Dr. John McIntosh.

Right before noon, the Bureau of Indian Education took over the podium with four update reports, which included:

- Administrative Cost Funds and ISEP Funds a presentation by David Talayumptewa, BIE Assistant Deputy Director of Administration;
- AYP Determination for Federally Funded Schools for 2013-2014 by Dr. John McIntosh;
- Facilities Update Report by Victor Puente, BIE Facilities Management, Fort Defiance Agency; and
- Professional Development Calendar was presented by Jacqueline Wade, Associate Superintendent BIE Navajo Region.

In the Afternoon when the conference reconvened, Vice President Rex Lee Jim entered the gymnasium with executive bodyguards at his side. Vice President addressed the audience emphasizing that the Sovereignty in Education Act was approved by the Navajo Nation Council. He further stressed that:

“We have the authority to educate our children. The Navajo Nation needs to take the lead authority on our education. We need to behave like a sovereign Nation. We need to accredit our own schools. We need to certify our own teachers and school administrators. We need our own curriculum. This already states in the Navajo Nation Sovereignty in Education Act.”

Toward the end of his address, Vice President Jim spoke on the importance and use of technology in classrooms on the Navajo Nation and that schools on the Navajo Nation should take advantage of information technology, like computers and Ipads in schools. The conference concluded with an update report from Angela Barney-Nez, Executive Director of the Diné Bi Ołta School Board Association.

For additional information on the Information Conference, contact Mr. Victor Benally and Mr. Darrick Franklin at (928) 871-7466.

END

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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## Navajo DOT road crews addressing flooded roadways



*While heavy rains battered the Navajo Nation and caused flooding in all five agencies, sunflowers bloomed in the storm's wake. Green fields of sunflowers and other vegetation covered the normal sparse landscape of the reservation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)*

The Navajo Division of Transportation encourages motorists to use extreme caution when traveling Navajo Nation roadways this week.

According to the seven-day forecast from National Weather Service, the Navajo Nation and northern Arizona are expecting thunderstorms and heavy rains for the week.

This means flooded roadways and dangerous driving conditions.

Ray Russell, department manager for NDOT Roads Department, said his crews are focused on clearing debris and sediments from paved roadways this week.

"We understand that the Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads Department is on training this week, so NDOT is covering all roads," Russell said. "We will not be grading dirt roads due to the saturated soil from the major storms we received yesterday afternoon and last night."

Russell said the potential of getting NDOT equipment

stuck is high, which could further impact and restrict crews from conducting road assessments and operations.

"We will begin routine maintenance and repairs on those roads when things dry up and get back to normal," he said.

Including the BIA roads triples the NDOT workload.

Russell cautioned drivers to use their best judgment when traveling in rainy conditions. He said more rain is expected throughout the Navajo Nation today and tonight.

Drivers need to slow down to avoid hydroplaning. Never attempt to cross a flooded roadway. Instead, find an alternative route or do not attempt to travel, if at all possible.

Senior heavy equipment operator Roscoe Tsosie said his road maintenance crews are on the road this week, providing direct services to flooded areas.

Tsosie said, "We have crews out on N15, near Cornfields and Sunrise area. Other areas include Route 12 near In-

dian Wells and N64 and N59, headed out to Kayenta from Many Farms."

As of this morning, he said other areas of concern were in the communities of Chinle, Red Valley, Tonalea, Cow Springs, Sweetwater, Two Grey Hills, Toadlena, Sheep Springs, Newcomb, and Shiprock.

Flash floods occur unexpectedly and quickly, often covering roadways within minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

If you see a flooded roadway, turn around. Otherwise, find higher ground and wait for water to subside.

Six-inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or stalled engines. One-foot of water will float many vehicles. Two-feet of rushing water can sweep away most vehicles, including pickups and sport utility vehicles.

The following tips for driving in thunderstorms are courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Tune in to your radio to stay informed of approaching storms
- If you see a tornado or hear a tornado warning, don't try to outrun it
- Turn on your headlights (low beams) and slow down
- Allow extra distance for braking
- Don't drive unless necessary
- Stay in the car and turn on emergency flashers until the heavy rains subside
- Automobiles provide better insulation against lightning than being in the open
- Avoid contact with any metal services inside your car or outside
- Avoid flooded roadways
- Avoid down power lines
- Approach intersections with caution



*Flooding in the Huerfano area damaged dirt roads and eroded large portions of earth near the roadbed. This channel began eroding into the roadway as well. (Photos by Rick Abasta)*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 9, 2013

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## **Council adopts the Navajo Nation FY 2014 Comprehensive Budget**

**WINDOW ROCK** – This evening, the Navajo Nation Council concluded its annual budget session by approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2014 comprehensive budget, which was tabled last Friday, including a total of 34 amendments.

Early in the discussion, legislation sponsor Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) explained that failure to approve the budget would possibly initiate a continuing resolution and a waiver of Navajo Nation law, which mandates the adoption of a comprehensive budget 20 days prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) expressed the importance of passing the legislation to avoid hindering services to Diné people.

“You know what happened the last time we had a continuing resolution,” said Delegate Nez to fellow Council colleagues. “It brought hardship to our people, the chapters, and the services provided.”

Moments before Council voted on the main motion, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreón, Whitehorse Lake) expressed his disapproval of the budget and urged Council to vote against it.

“We put a lot of things in this budget that lack accountability,” said Delegate Tsosie. “We need to begin looking at funding the true needs of Navajo people.”

After nearly five hours of discussion, Council voted 16-1 in support of the legislation.

The budget now goes to President Ben Shelly for review. President Shelly will have ten days to sign the bill, veto it, or use his line-item veto authority.

A report detailing the condition of appropriations and amendments if forthcoming and will be available by the end of this week.

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September 9, 2013

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## **Health, Education, and Human Services Committee designates Navajo Nation Board of Education as governing body for Navajo Head Start**

**WINDOW ROCK** – The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee met last Wednesday, to consider designating the Navajo Nation Board of Education as the new governing body for the Navajo Head Start program.

“This legislation addresses deficiencies within the Head Start program,” said legislation sponsor and HEHSC chairman Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels). “Later on down the road, I think Head Start will have to move outside of the Nation and fully function on its own.”

Legislation No. 0252-13 gives the Navajo Nation Board of Education the authority to serve as the governing body, which shall have the legal and fiscal responsibility for the Head Start agency.

The legislation outlines several of the responsibilities that NNBOE shall uphold as the governing body such as: ensuring compliance with federal laws, establishing criteria for enrollment of children, and reviewing and approving all major policies of the agency.

“This transfer of accord is not giving NNBOE sole power that you have as legislators. What this does is requiring them to carry out the work that is identified in the roles and responsibilities of the Head Start Act,” said Department of Diné Education principal education specialist Lamont Yazzie.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) said he would like for the legislation to explain the difference between the “governing body” and “legislative oversight”, which the HEHSC will maintain.

“In the future, we don’t want to have a discussion about the governing body versus legislative oversight,” said Delegate Phelps. “We’re the final committee to make this determination, but first we need some clarification.”

HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi) questioned if the committee could rescind governing body authority from NNBOE, if the HEHSC saw such action to be necessary in the future.

Acting chief legislative counsel Marianna Kahn, said that the legislation distinguished the role of the governing body and that at any time the committee could propose legislation to rescind the

governing body authority, unless in the future the Navajo Nation Council amended Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code.

The HEHSC voted 5-0 to approve Legislation No. 0252-13.

The HEHSC serves as the final authority for this legislation.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 6, 2013

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**Council tables the Navajo Nation FY 2014 Comprehensive Budget**

**WINDOW ROCK** – Friday evening, the Navajo Nation Council tabled Legislation No. 0247-13, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2014 comprehensive budget.

After lengthy discussions and the approval of 30 amendments over the course of three days, Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) motioned to table the legislation and requested for a special session, noting that the FY 2014 comprehensive budget requires two-thirds majority approval, or sixteen supporting votes, by Council.

“The legislation requires super majority and we need full membership here,” said Delegate Nez.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) supported the tabling motion, adding that he would not seek a continuing resolution.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) urged his Council colleagues to support a continuing resolution.

“If the vote is not here then it should be deemed that this legislation failed and we should start off with a continuing resolution on Monday,” stated Delegate Tsosie. “The wise thing to do is have a continuing resolution.”

At the conclusion of the debate, Council members voted 15-1 in support of the tabling motion.

A special session to address the FY 2014 comprehensive budget is scheduled to begin on Monday, at 1 P.M. at the Council Chambers in Window Rock.

If the budget is approved on Monday, Council will remain in compliance with a requirement which mandates that Council adopt a comprehensive budget 20 days prior to the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)



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For Immediate Release  
Sept. 6, 2013

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## Navajo President Shelly Supports State Plan to Reduce Nitrogen Oxide at SJGS

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly stated his support for a New Mexico state plan that was recently approved by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board regarding cleaner emissions for San Juan Generation Station near Farmington, New Mexico.

“I support this plan because jobs are going to be protected and Navajo workers are going to get job training. I am thankful the Environmental Improvement Board passed the plan, though I still am advocating to the federal government to consider the economic impacts of the Regional Haze Rule. The Navajo Nation needs time to transition from our revenue dependency upon coal,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly testified at a public hearing in Farmington on Thursday stating his support of the state’s plan to comply with federal Environmental Protection Agency polices to cut emissions according to the Regional Haze Rule. The EIB unanimously approve the state plan late yesterday evening.

The state plan calls for the closure of two of four units at SJGS, a coal fired power plant, by the end of 2017, while installing nitrogen oxide reducing technology on the remaining units by 2016. The plan would still need federal EPA approval.

“This state plan addresses my concerns and perspectives regarding impacts to the Navajo Nation and our region. This plan is an important step forward in meeting the requirements of the federal visibility rule and minimizes the economic impacts to the region,” President Shelly said at the hearing.

San Juan Generating Station employs nearly 90 Native American workers and nearby San Juan mine, which is the sole supplier of coal to SJGS, employs about 230 Native American workers, most of which are presumed to Navajo.

President Shelly has been meeting with Public Service Company of New Mexico, SJGS primary owner, to ensure that Navajo workers aren’t laid off as a result of closing two units at the power plant.

In addition to no workers at the plant being laid off, PNM is providing \$1 million for job training for Navajo workers. The job training funding has been made available to students at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint and at San Juan Community College in Farmington.

“I am thankful that we are protecting Navajo jobs and providing opportunities for Navajo workers. We need to secure and grow the Navajo middle class to create a stronger Navajo economy and these workers are a vital part of that vision,” President Shelly said.

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## Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Christina Tsosie, Media Production Specialist  
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### **NNTV5 to provide live webcast of Miss Navajo Nation Pageant and Navajo Nation Parade**

Window Rock, AZ – The Navajo Nation TV5 (NNTV5), in partnership with the Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology and Navajo Arts and Craft Enterprise, will be providing a live webcast of the following events.

#### Miss Navajo Nation Pageant:

September 5, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.	-	Traditional Skills & Talent Competition
September 6, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.	-	Contemporary Skills & Talent Competition
September 6, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.	-	Evening Gown Competition
September 7, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.	-	Coronation of Miss Navajo Nation 13'-14'

#### Navajo Nation Parade

September 7, 2013 to begin at 8:00 a.m.

The webcast can be found on the NNTV5 channel: [www.ustream.tv/channel/nnoobs](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/nnoobs). All fair event information can be found on the Navajo Nation Fair website: [www.navajonationfair.com](http://www.navajonationfair.com). Thank you.



## OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 04, 2013**

### **AUTOMOBILE PURCHASING SEMINAR SLATED TO HELP NAVAJO CONSUMERS AVOID PREDATORY TACTICS**

**ST. MICHAELS, AZ** – Purchasing an automobile could become an extensive and complicated process. If you are properly prepared you can walk away with a valuable and worry-free investment. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (Commission) would like to inform Navajo consumers about credit and information protection by providing Automobile Sales and Financing Practice seminar on September 6, 2013 at the Navajo Nation Museum. This one-day consumer protection seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Commission received over a hundred written complaints and testimonies from three public hearings and came to the conclusion that automobile sales and lending practices in border towns verge on predatory tactics. These tactics leave the buyer more in debt and wondering how they are going to meet other family financial obligations. During a nine month period the Commission examined the sales, lending and finance maneuvers local dealerships engage into when dealing with non-English speaking Navajo consumers.

This seminar will address issues that should help Navajo consumers understand how a credit score determines a person's annual percentage rate (APR) and how a consumer can improve to correct their credit score. Expert presenters from the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, the Arizona and New Mexico Attorney General Office's and the Navajo Nation Credit Services will also provided information pertaining to fraudulent practices and how you can protect yourself. Consumers will be aware of the types of information dealerships collect and organize. Detail information will be provided on warranties when a consumer starts to have problems with vehicle parts and repairs. Moreover, laws concerning "cool down" provision, lemon laws, arbitration clauses and unwinding a sales contract will also be discussed.

The Commission urges new or existing automobile consumers to attend this seminar before contemplating buying a vehicle in the near future. To ensure the public is properly informed, intermittent Navajo language service will be available to assist non-English speaking consumers with information disseminated by the presenters.

For more information please contact the Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at 928-871-7436.

[WWW.NNHRC.NAVAJO-NSN.GOV](http://WWW.NNHRC.NAVAJO-NSN.GOV)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: Tuesday, September 3, 2013**

**TUBA CITY JUDICIAL DISTRICT TO HOST FEDERAL TRIAL**

The Tuba City Judicial District is hosting a federal trial of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona September 11-12. U.S. District Judge G. Murray Snow will preside.

The case is *United States v. Edsel A. Badoni, No. CR-12-8262-PCT-GMS*. Mr. Badoni is charged with (1) assault with a dangerous weapon, (2) assault resulting in serious bodily injury, and (3) discharging a firearm during a crime of violence.

The hosting of this proceeding on the Navajo Nation will give local students and the general public the opportunity to witness a federal trial first-hand and to learn about the justice system.

The trial will begin at on September 11, 2013, and is expected to continue on September 12, 2013. Seating will be limited.

For more information, please contact the Tuba City Judicial District at (928) 283-3140.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 3, 2013

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## **Council approves the Navajo Nation Audit Report for FY 2011**

**WINDOW ROCK** – Today, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0251-13, the audit report from KPMG LLP on the primary government of the Navajo Nation, for fiscal year 2011.

The majority of Council’s discussion centered on the need for more comprehensive reporting regarding the Nation’s Permanent Trust Fund investments and the need for in-depth audits at the chapter level.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) stressed the need to include the 110 chapters in the annual audit to gain a clearer picture of the Nation’s finances.

“I think the [Budget and Finance] Committee and this Council should take responsibility and have all audits be combined during budget season, so we can get a bigger and better picture of the state of Navajo Nation finances — meaning the chapters, the enterprises, and the primary government,” said Delegate Tsosie.

Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) also voiced the need for in-depth chapter audits, aside from current performance audits conducted by the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General.

“The only time we hear of chapter financial situations is through investigations when money is missing,” said Delegate Hale. “We need to be proactive in order to negate such happenings.”

Council members were also provided with information regarding the Nation’s Permanent Trust Fund, which showed that as of June 30, 2013, the Nation’s investments were valued at approximately \$1.4 billion.

The Nation’s Permanent Trust Fund was established in 1985 by the Council, mandating that 12 percent of the Nation’s annual revenue be invested in the fund each year.

Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) asserted that the Nation’s trust fund has grown, contrary to suggestions that the Nation is subsidizing its own investment growth.

“We made a contribution of \$400 million as of June 30, 2013 and the balance sheet shows \$1.4 billion, so money is being made,” said Delegate Simpson.

Delegate Tsoie also questioned the increase in personnel expense for the Nation in FY 2011 and urged his Council colleagues to re-evaluate personnel costs.

“Why is it that everyone’s pay is going up and nothing is happening out there?” asked Delegate Tsoie. “We need to shake our budget upside down, get rid of those that are not working, and identify those that we need.”

At the conclusion of the two hour discussion, Council members voted 12-4 in support of Legislation No. 0251-13.

During a Naabik’iyátí’ Committee meeting held last Friday, Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) explained to fellow committee colleagues that the FY 2012 and 2013 audits have yet to be completed due to a court order that blocked access to Administration Buildings One and Two, which contained financial documents necessary to complete the audits.

As a result, the FY 2011 audit was the only item discussed at today’s Council’s session.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)