



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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CONTACT: GEORGE HARDEEN
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
OFFICE – 928-871-7917
CELL – 928-309-8532
pressoffice@opvp.org

Analysis shows fill soil used for Navajo Fire Rock Casino proves free of uranium contamination, work continuing

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – An analysis of soil being used by the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise for construction of its Fire Rock Casino parking lot has shown it to be free of any uranium radiation contamination.

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Executive Director Stephen B. Etsitty said Friday that his agency's Superfund Program conducted a surface radiological survey of the Becenti Trails Road borrow pit and determined its soil is free of contamination and safe to use.

In a July 18 letter to Navajo Nation Resources Committee Chairman George Arthur, who asked for the soil testing, Mr. Etsitty said his program surveyed a two-acre area and conducted 70 readings were taken from 35 sampling locations.

"Sixty-two of the readings were equal to or below the determined background (level of radiation)," Mr. Etsitty wrote.

"This information leads me to conclude that no further investigation is required regarding the presence of uranium contaminated soils at the Becenti Trails Road Borrow Pit," he said.

Mr. Arthur said in a July 10 Resource Committee meeting that he understood that the casino construction was halting, although no work stoppage occurred.

"Construction has not been affected," said Raymond Etsitty, the gaming enterprise's legal counsel. "They've drilled and set 50 pillars 50 feet deep for the administrative building."

He said concrete for the bingo hall and casino area has been poured and work is underway for the foundation walls.

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