



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Naabik'iyáti' Committee approves \$4.1 million for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC and the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013

WINDOW ROCK –Naabik'iyáti' Committee members last Thursday approved Legislation No. 0305-13, approving \$4.1 million from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to fund initial and immediate costs and obligations associated with the acquisition of Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton, and Legislation No. 0276-13, the proposed Navajo Energy Policy of 2013.

Prior to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee meeting, the Budget and Finance Committee held a special meeting in which members voted 4-0 in favor of Legislation No. 0305-13, which was then added to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee's agenda along with Legislation No. 0276-13 at the start of the meeting.

Following an approximately four hour discussion over a report provided to Naabik'iyáti' Committee members from representatives of the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC during an executive session, committee members immediately approved Legislation No. 0305-13 with a 13-1 vote.

Committee members then discussed the proposed Navajo Energy Act of 2013, which seeks to rescind the 1980 Navajo Nation Energy Policy established under former Chairman Peter MacDonald, and to update and amend language within the energy act.

The bill drew opposition from several delegates including Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreón, Whitehorse Lake) who argued that the legislation is in need of more definitive wording.

"This is one of those [legislations with] feel-good language and it really doesn't have teeth," said Delegate Tsosie.

Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) also expressed skepticism over the proposed energy policy and questioned why it took 33 years for the Council to update the original policy.

"The world is advancing very fast and I think there will be gaps in this policy if we do this right away," said Delegate Pete. "Are we going to wait another 33 years to update this policy again?"

During the course of the two hour discussion, committee members approved two amendments including removing a section of the legislation that expresses disappointment with current federal policies regarding the use of coal, and another amendment to remove language stating that the Navajo would adapt to the future federal regulatory environment.

Naabik'iyátí' Committee members voted 8-4 to approve Legislation No. 0276-13.

A special session has been scheduled for Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. to consider both legislations.

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