THE NAVAJO NATION

BEN SHELLY PRESIDENT
REX LEE JIM VICE PRESIDENT

Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Office: (928) 871-7884
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Jan. 27, 2012

President Shelly Asks for Detailed Federal Consolidation Plan

President Shelly (right) meets with BLM and OSM officials Thursday morning.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly asked for more details regarding a federal plan to consolidate two agencies.

Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar signed a Secretarial Order in October 2011 to consolidate some functions between the Bureau of Land Management and the Office of Surface Mining.

Part of the order states federal officials need to seek input from stakeholders such as residents and governments. OSM and BLM officials met with Navajo officials and other stakeholders on Thursday.

But BLM and OSM didn't have a plan for consolidation to present to stakeholders, rather, officials said they were gathering information and comments to formulate a consolidation plan.

"My feedback is, there is no plan. I'd like to see a plan," President Shelly said.

Representatives from the agencies stated they didn't have a plan to propose, but rather that they were asking for input for a report that is going to be submitted to Sec. Salazar in mid- February.

The report will be used to build a plan to consolidate the two agencies, federal officials stated.

However, President Shelly said he was thankful for being allowed time to comment toward a plan for consolidation.

"The name of the game here is to work toward the betterment of the Navajo Nation," President Shelly said.

###