



Contact: Erny Zah  
Director of Communications  
Office: (928) 871-7884  
Cell: (928) 380-0771

[navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov)

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## Navajo President Shelly Explores New Opportunities in Energy Distribution

**SANTA FE, N.M.**—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with Tres Amigas Chief Executive Officer Phillip Harris and former New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya to discuss a proposed \$1.5 billion energy interconnection, accommodating Navajo’s energy future.



(Right to left) Former New Mexico Gov. Toney Anaya stand with Navajo President Ben Shelly and Tres Amigas CEO Phillip Harris.

“Our future in Tres Amigas is to establish a connection to be a major energy partner and to bring a permanent stream of revenue to the nation,” said President Shelly, during a Wednesday meeting last week.

The Tres Amigas Electricity SuperStation will unite the three electrical power grids in a transmission Super Station to be built in Clovis, New Mexico on 22.5 square mile area. Groundbreaking is set for July 2012. President Shelly has been invited to speak.

“With the Tres Amigas interconnect we can sell our energy across the United States,” said President Shelly. “We are building our energy program on every level with our resources and renewable energy.”

The president said to Harris and Anaya while in Santa Fe he would like the Navajo Nation to become an investing partner since the project is in New Mexico. Harris welcomed the

president's statement adding that the partners will substantially benefit. The Navajo Nation will be able to use the SuperStation to sell its power nationwide to all market places.

Tres Amigas will be constructed in four phases, with the first phase connecting the western and eastern interconnection facilitating up to 750 megawatts of power. As all four phases are constructed the SuperStation will handle 30 gigawatts of power transfer capacity.

The SuperStation is designed to optimize the handling of power for energy efficiency, which will result in more revenue for Tres Amigas and its shareholders. The four phase construction is replete with building the smart grid which transmits both power and data.

Congressman Ben Lujan, D-N.M., on Saturday gave his support for the project.

"Tres Amigas is an important project for the convergence and transmission of power of open markets to the states," he said. "It's good for New Mexico, the Navajo Nation, and the United States."

States will be required to show up to 20 percent of their power consumption, which originates from renewable sources. The Navajo Nation is well underway with projects for both wind and solar power generation.

Last Wednesday, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez signed a bill to give a tax incentive to maintain the \$1.5 billion Tres Amigas headquarter location is in New Mexico. Without the legislation, the headquarter location would have been relocated to Amarillo, Texas.

"We thought about what would best represent the three power grids coming together," Harris said. "We came up with the three female friends to signify New Mexico's heritage." In Spanish, Tres Amigas means three female friends.

The design portrays the three women who are different ethnic decent.

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