



Contact: Erny Zah  
Director of Communications  
Cell: (928) 380-0771  
[navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov)

For Immediate Release  
April 30, 2013

---

## President Shelly Welcomes Energy Officials from Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Tribes



**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.-** Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly welcomed energy leaders from the Three Affiliated Tribes from North Dakota during a meeting Tuesday morning at the Navajo Nation Museum.

The group from North Dakota included Vice Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes Rich Fox, who represents White Shield community. The three tribes that comprise the Three Affiliated Tribes are the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes.

Vice Chairman Fox said his tribe was visiting the Navajo Nation to gain information about tribal energy regulations.

"We are thankful to the Navajo Nation for presenting to us," Vice Chairman Fox said during the introduction portion of Tuesday's program that opened a day of

presentations from the Navajo land Department, Navajo Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Occupation Health and Safety Organization, Navajo Oil and Gas Company, and other programs.

President Shelly welcomed attendees, adding that the Navajo Nation is rich in natural resources, but have regulations that prevent the Navajo Nation from realizing its full potential in energy development.

“On the Navajo Nation, we are rich with coal, natural gas and other precious and rare metals, some which can only be found on the Navajo Nation. As rich as we are though, we have spent decades overcoming regulations set forth by the federal government,” said President Shelly.

“Gaining certain approvals for us to explore and extract natural resource has been a long standing issue that slows the ability for the Navajo Nation to truly establish self determination,” President Shelly added.

According to media reports, the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Tribe plans to invest in a \$400 million oil refinery, which if built, would be the first refinery built in the United States in more than 30 years.

The meeting is scheduled to conclude on Wednesday.

###