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## Navajo President Shelly Says NECR Mine Site Cleanup Must Continue

**GALLUP, N.M.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly during a meeting with U.S. EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry said cleanup of the North East Church Rock mine site needs to continue.

“What effect will the sequestration and budget have on the clean up and disposal of contaminated materials? We need to stick with the Five Year Plan and make sure the Obama administration doesn’t lose focus of the long term goal,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly and other staff from the Navajo EPA met with Curry Thursday morning.

“We need to find another place to put the contaminated material, I just don’t want them covering it up. I don’t want to contaminate the water,” President Shelly added.

President Shelly has continuously stressed the importance of the 5 Year Plan to both federal agencies and local residents.

“One of the critical lessons we learned early on was to listen to the people who live in the impacted areas,” President Shelly said.

The 5 Year Plan was released in 2008 that outlined steps to clean up the Northeast Church Rock uranium mine site. The plan has seven federal agencies involved.

President Shelly added that U.S. EPA Region 6 and Region 9 need to work together with the Navajo Nation and keep the Nation informed about any prospected changes in policy, since both regions cover the Navajo Nation.

Another discussed item was the State Implementation Plan for San Juan Generating Station near Farmington N.M. SJGS has proposed to close two units to meet the requirements of the Regional Haze Rule.

“I am not completely happy with the impending early retirement of Units 2 and 3 by year  
and 2017 but I do support it as the best economic alternative. BART (Best Available Technique)

Technology). I understand the need to find a course towards an agreement that will result in some paths for meeting the Regional Haze Rule, mitigate job losses and impacts to the regional economy,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly added that the PNM-Navajo Work Force Training Program is welcomed to help train workers in the region.

“Understanding my concerns about the impacts to the work force, PNM offered \$1 million dollars to assist with training to offset lay-offs and other job-related challenges that some workers will face. I am very optimistic about this effort,” President Shelly said.

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