



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT  
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
NOVEMBER 16, 2016

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**PRESIDENT BEGAYE SAYS FEDERAL AGENCIES SHOULD CONDUCT TRIBAL CONSULTATION BEFORE CONSTRUCTING SENSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE**

On Monday, Nov. 14, the United States Army Corps of Engineers issued a statement regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline in which they determined that additional discussion and analysis are warranted before any further construction is completed.

The Army came to this determination by considering the history of the Sioux Nation's dispossessions of lands, the importance of Lake Oahe to the Tribe, the inherent government-to-government relationship, and the statute governing easements through government property.

Responding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers statement, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said the Navajo Nation appreciates the offer from the Army to conduct a tribal consultation regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline.

"This is something that all federal agencies should do before constructing sensitive infrastructure, whether it's an oil pipeline, a freeway or power lines, or anything that could impact the health of the Native people living in the construction area," he said.

President Begaye also said that he appreciates President Obama's administration, the U.S. Congress and the Department of Interior for being aware of the need for Native American nations to be involved in discussing these critical issues.

"We welcome the opportunity for tribal nations to be a part of this consultation process. We ask that this consultation not be held in only one location but in multiple locations. This pipeline will impact not just one area or tribal nation but multiple," President Begaye said. "The Navajo Nation welcomes this opportunity for our nation to have a say on this issue that is critical to the livelihood of all our Indian people."

The Army stated they will work with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe on a timeline that allows for discussion and analysis to be completed expeditiously.

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