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PRESIDENT BEGAYE SIGNS GRANT FROM US EPA FOR \$328,849 TO EXPAND PARTNERSHIP TO NAVAJO AML IN URANIUM CLEAN UP



Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye signs a grant from the U.S. EPA which will expand the partnership between NNEPA and NAML in addressing uranium mine clean up.

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ-In an effort to further expand the available resources dedicated to uranium clean up, President Russell Begaye signed a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to expand their partnership to include the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands (AML).

The grant is in the amount of \$328,849 and is for the purposes of including Navajo AML on project management activities like data collection, field work and engineering work.

“Our 32-year partnership with the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) is now being expanded. It’s stronger now with the skills of the Navajo AML program (NAML),” said Clancy Tenley, Assistant Director of U.S. EPA’s Superfund Division.

Tenley said the work of cleaning up the “scourge of uranium on the Navajo Nation” is way too much work for any one entity to do alone.

“The partnership of Navajo AML is something that will greatly add to this,” he said.

President Begaye thanked Tenley and the U.S. EPA for the grant funding and said it will bring peace of mind to communities who have lived with uranium contamination for years.

“We still have contaminated washes and run-offs that flow into tributaries that cross the Nation. We have abandoned and open mines that haven’t been mitigated for years,” he said. “We need more interaction between NEPA and NAML to bring about potential ideas and solutions. NAML needs to be a part of this whole process.”

The president said he appreciates the support the U.S. EPA has given in going after those who have benefitted from uranium mining while leaving behind abandoned mines.

“We appreciate it and thank you,” he said. “Thank you for this funding as well. We will use it wisely. Through consultation with the U.S. EPA, we will positively impact those who have lived in communities of uranium contamination.”

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