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NNEPA Applauds Federal Implementation Plan for Four Corners Power Plant

The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency applauds the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the finalization of a clean air plan (also referred to as a Federal Implementation Plan, or FIP) for the Four Corners Power Plant located on the Navajo Nation, near Farmington, New Mexico. The USEPA Administrator signed the FIP documents on April 30, 2007. The FIP establishes federal emission limits for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, total particulate matter, opacity and dust control.

NNEPA Executive Director, Stephen B. Etsitty, stated: "Finalization of the FIP was long anticipated by the Navajo Nation and it is an important set of environmental standards that our Air Quality Programs will use. Since 2006, the NNEPA Air Quality Program assumed regulatory authority over Four Corners Power Plant, under a federal Part 71 Permitting Program. The FIP contains enforceable standards that will be implemented by the NNEPA Air Quality Program."

Arizona Public Service Co., who manages the power plant, consulted with NNEPA on a Sulfur Dioxide emission reduction study that contributed to the final FIP. NNEPA looks forward to working with APS to maintain compliance with the new federal emission standards.

This action by USEPA supports the development and implementation of the NNEPA Air Quality Program to address local and regional air quality concerns. NNEPA is participating in on-going collaborative efforts with federal agencies, such as USEPA and the National Parks Service; the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado; and Navajo and non-Navajo environmental groups, to continue working to reduce emissions from sources within the Navajo Nation and the region.

The Navajo Nation recognizes its growing role in the region to help improve air quality and public health, and is committed to working with our partners on the Navajo Nation and across the entire Four Corners region.

For more information about the NNEPA Air Quality Program, contact Charlene Nelson at (928) 729-4246; or go to www.navajonationepa.org