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SPEAKER PRO TEM GORMAN MAKES CONGRATULATORY REMARKS AT DPA SIGNING

Following the signing of the legislation that the Navajo Nation Council enacted during a special session on May 12, 2006, Speaker Pro Tem Nelson Gorman (Chinle) offered congratulatory remarks on behalf of the Council. The legislation authorizes the lease between the Navajo Nation and the Diné Power Authority and a sublease between DPA and Sithe Global Power LLC.

“I have been involved with this since I’ve been a Council delegate – more than 20 years,” Gorman said. “It’s for the people.”

President Joe Shirley signed the legislation into law before signing the lease along with DPA General Manager Steven Begay. Begay and Dirk Straussfeld from Sithe Global also signed a sub-lease during the signing ceremony.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were Vice President Frank Dayish and Council delegates Tommy Tsosie and Philbert Tso.

Following the ceremony, Gorman noted that a lot of history was behind the project as the Navajo Nation worked to alleviate conditions of unemployment and poverty among the Navajo people.

“The Navajo Paragon Generating Station Policy Board and Task Force was established by Executive Order in 1985. An important element was that the DPA was entrusted to develop a power plant as part of the Navajo Nation commitment,” Gorman said.



“Our thanks go to those who shared our vision and goal to establish a new power plant. Today we came together to witness the signing of the agreement to move forward with this historic endeavor.

“A special thanks to those providing guidance, support, dedication and professionalism in this challenge and accomplishment including various individuals, agencies, corporations, the 20th Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Tax Commission, the Diné Power Authority and the Office of the President and Vice President,” Gorman said.

Gorman, the first Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council (1991-1995), was appointed Speaker Pro Tem by Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) while Morgan is in Washington D.C. this week.

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