



**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker**  
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## **Navajo Nation Council Approves APS Four Corners Lease Extension**

**Window Rock, AZ** — Today, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, during a special session, approved the Arizona Public Service (APS) Lease extension for the Four Corners Power Plant located on the Navajo Nation near Fruitland, New Mexico. The lease, set to terminate in 2016, will now expire in 2041. In the extension, APS will guarantee annual payments to the Navajo Nation for \$7 million, with cost adjustments, even if the plant closes before the end of the term.

The measure passed by a vote of 18-2 and will now seek Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly's approval.

"The majority of the Council recognized the economic importance for the Navajo Nation to continue with this Lease," said Navajo Nation Speaker of the Council, Johnny Naize. "While some may not agree with the current terms, please know that numerous hours of negotiation were spent to create a fair revised agreement for the Navajo People."

The Four Corners Power Plant, which gets its coal from the nearby Navajo Coal Mine, currently generates 2,040 megawatts, providing power to about 300,000 households in New Mexico, Arizona, California and Texas. Both the Plant and Mine employ roughly 1000 people, 75 percent of whom are Native American with a majority who are members of the Navajo Nation.

Last October, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a proposed rule that would force the plant to cut nitrogen oxide emissions by 80 percent through the closing of three of its oldest five units by 2014 and retrofitting the remaining two.

This was acknowledged by the Council which also added an amendment calling on continuing the effort by the facility to keep future emissions low as newer technologies develop.

The first Lease was established in 1960 with the initial construction of the Four Corners Power Plant. In 1966 the Lease was amended, allowing for the expansion of the facility. Additional changes were added in 1985.

Other parties in the current Lease extension included the El Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, the Salt River Project, Southern California Edison, and Tucson Electric.

Southern California Edison has notified Leaseholders it intends to terminate its ownership in the Four Corners Plant on or before 2016. APS has negotiated a sale agreement to acquire their share pending regulatory approval.

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