



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northeastern Water Rights Settlement Agreement remains in table status until special session is scheduled

"The length of time given is not just and equitable to thoroughly inform the general public on the settlement agreement" – Francis Redhouse, chair for the Ethics and Rules Committee

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan requested for a special Ethics and Rules Committee meeting to discuss the agenda of a special session to consider the Northeastern Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which was tabled by the Navajo Nation Council on Sept. 29 by a vote of 49-32.

At the Sept. 29 special session, the Navajo Nation Council voted to table the water rights settlement in an effort to provide additional time for the Navajo public to become more informed about the contents of the agreement. The Council also made directives for a work session and special session, which Speaker Morgan requested on Monday.

Honorable Francis Redhouse, chair for the Ethics and Rules Committee, said in an Oct.5 memo that the committee was not able to meet on Friday as the Speaker requested.

"The Ethics and Rules Committee would not be able to meet due to limited funds in our special meeting account and committee members have prior commitments on Oct. 8," said Redhouse. "It is best to meet on the regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 15 to consider the proposed request."

"I am aware that the Navajo Nation Council tabled the legislation for a period of seven days to conduct public hearings to educate the general public on the settlement agreement," Redhouse added. "The length of time given is not just and equitable to thoroughly inform the general public on the settlement agreement."

Yesterday, following the response of the Ethics and Rules Chair, Speaker Morgan sent out a memorandum addressed to the Navajo Nation Council concerning the scheduling of the proposed special session.

"Due to the complex nature of the contents and enormous impact of the agreement, it would be in the best interest of the Navajo people for the Legislative Branch to uphold the public trust and provide additional time for the general public to become better informed of the contents of the agreement before their Navajo leaders take action on Legislation No. 0422-10, the Northeastern Water Rights Settlement Agreement," said Speaker Morgan.

For more information, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org for a copy of the memorandums.

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