Navajo President Shelly States Support for NTEC and Navajo Nation Energy Policy

UPPER FRUITLAND, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly stated his support for Navajo Energy Transitional Company and advocated for the passage of the Navajo Nation Energy Policy.

“We have an outdated energy policy that needs to be updated,” President Shelly said during a Friday morning press conference.

President Shelly added that the new energy policy would give policy direction to the Navajo Nation for all energy projects.

“I ask the energy policy be passed,” President Shelly said adding that he supports NTEC and their acquisition of Navajo Mine.

In an earlier released statement, President Shelly stated, “I am committed to supporting NTEC in order to keep paychecks going to our Navajo people. I have asked the council to ensure that the financial mechanism used will pay back any monies appropriated to the process.”

At the press conference, President Shelly used his to time to iterate the need for an updated energy policy on the Navajo Nation, which was formed in 1980.

President Shelly said he plans to work with the Navajo Council Johnny Naize to pass the Navajo Nation Energy Policy.

The Navajo Nation formed Navajo Transitional Energy Company to enable the Navajo Nation to acquire BHP Billiton’s Navajo Mine. Negotiations are still ongoing, however, Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates introduced a bill to provide seed money for the new company to finalize the purchase of Navajo Mine.

This would be the first coal mine solely owned by a Navajo Nation enterprise.

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