



Navajo Háyoolkáál Proclamation

Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

WHEREAS, the Navajo Háyoolkáál Proclamation, also known as the Navajo Sunrise Proclamation, hereby creates a new economic vision for the Navajo people through healing the land, fostering clean energy development, and providing leadership for the energy market for the Navajo people; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Sunrise Proclamation shall be based on four principles:

1. A diverse energy portfolio, creating workforce development and job creation for the Navajo People from focused carbon-based energy to renewable energy development, including workforce,
2. Restoration of land and water after decades of uranium and coal mining,
3. Rural electrification of homes that lack access to electricity,
4. Utility-scale renewable energy development, to supply electricity to the Navajo Nation and Western United States; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. economic trend has led to the scheduled closures or retrofitting of coal-fired generating stations and coal mines in and around the Navajo Nation in the coming years. The Nez-Lizer Administration will strive to protect our people's livelihood with jobs and incomes as we work to restore the land, and to build a more diverse economy and energy portfolio, including clean energy development; and

WHEREAS, the Nez-Lizer Administration will prioritize providing off-grid solar generated electricity to Navajo households that do not have electricity and building new community and utility-scale clean energy projects. Renewable energy projects require designers, installers, electricians, and maintenance crews, which will build capacity among Navajo workers and sustain this workforce in the long-term. Once this economic engine is established, the Navajo Nation will continue to secure new investment and new jobs through ancillary industries like the assembly of solar panels and racking systems, further solidifying its role as a leader in the clean energy market; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation will build economic opportunities for our people by reinvesting a portion of our renewable energy revenues into infrastructure and the enterprises created by our entrepreneurs and small business owners; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the transition to a balanced energy portfolio, and to bring benefits to the Navajo people, the Nez-Lizer Administration will support groups that provide off-grid solar power and energy storage for Navajo households that do not have electricity. We recognize that the Navajo Nation has been providing electricity for the Western United States for many years using our natural resources while many of our own people lack basic access to power and running water; and

WHEREAS, the Nez-Lizer Administration supports amending the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013 to prioritize renewable energy as a key focus of the Navajo Nation, while creating an energy office to oversee energy projects and development; as information is enhanced and technology is improved and achieving economies of scale enable cost conducive structure, the Navajo Energy Office can position itself for optimal gains; and

WHEREAS, through the practice of Nitsáhákees, Nahatá, Iiná and Sihasin, this Proclamation is issued with the belief that our greatest problems can be solved by creating a diversified energy portfolio that will contribute to combating climate change, powering the Navajo Nation and Western United States, and uplifting the Navajo people. The Navajo Nation will become a leader in clean energy, and ensure that clean energy is advanced through Navajo labor, entrepreneurship, innovation and adaptation; and

WHEREAS, the greatest resource of the Navajo Nation is its people, who, through war and attrition, overcame adversity and prospered partly through its vast sources of energy, which today is held for future generations.

THEREFORE, through the Diné teaching of “T’áá hwó’ ajít’éego” and for the many who have called upon our Nation’s leaders to transition away from our overdependence on fossil fuels, the Navajo Nation will strive for a balanced energy portfolio and will pursue and prioritize clean renewable energy development for the long-term benefit of the Navajo People and our communities. I, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and I, Vice President Myron Lizer, do hereby issue the Navajo Háyoolkáál Proclamation, also known as the Navajo Sunrise Proclamation, to create a new, diverse economy for the Navajo people to heal the land, foster clean energy development, and to become a leader the energy market for the Navajo People. Proclaimed this 2nd Day of April 2019.


Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION