



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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**Navajo Nation First Lady Nez
commends coal mining women of the Navajo Nation**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez at Navajo Mine in Fruitland, N.M. on July 24, 2019.

FRUITLAND, N.M. – Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez had the honor of visiting and recognizing the women workforce at Navajo Mine in honor and recognition of their progression in the coal mine industry. Navajo Mine, located south of Farmington, N.M., is operated by Bisti Fuels Company, LLC, a subsidiary of North American Coal Corporation, on behalf of the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC.

During the visit, First Lady Nez had the opportunity to meet the 65 women employees of Navajo Mine. Of 375 mine workers, approximately 17-percent of the mine's workforce are women and hold various positions, such as engineers, environmental technicians, heavy equipment operators, mechanics, accountants, mine inspectors, administrators, and maintenance.

“It was an honor to meet the women coal miners of Navajo Mine. They are courageous, intelligent, and strong women to be working hard in a male-dominated industry,” said First Lady Nez. “It is important to acknowledge the hard-working women of the Navajo Nation, and I want them to know that they have my support.”

During the visit, First Lady Nez also received a tour of the mine and had the opportunity to have discussions with the women mineworkers relating to the balance of work, family, and health.

“The stories of the women mineworkers are inspiring and empowering. These women can work hard as working mothers, grandmothers, and professional leaders. Their success stories need to be heard to encourage and motivate young girls and women,” added First Lady Nez.

At the end of the visit, many of the women coal miners expressed their appreciation to the First Lady for visiting, recognizing, and honoring their fields of work at Navajo Mine.

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