



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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**Nez-Lizer commend New Mexico Supreme
Court's ruling on applicability of Energy Transition Act**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez speaking in support of Navajo workers before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission in Santa Fe, N.M. on Aug. 14, 2019.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer commend Wednesday's ruling by the New Mexico Supreme Court confirming the applicability of the Energy Transition Act to PNM's application for San Juan Generating Station abandonment, securitization, and replacement power.

The Energy Transition Act provided funding and benefits for employees impacted by the closure of the San Juan Generating Station, however, a majority of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission members took a position that the funds and benefits under the Energy Transition Act do not apply to workers at the San Juan Generating Station, where members of the Navajo Nation comprise over 60-percent of the workforce for the plant, mine, contractors, and vendors.

For the Navajo Nation, the ruling means that the Energy Transition Act will be applied to the closure of the San Juan Generating Station, which contains \$12 million for affected workers, contractors and vendors. In addition to that aid, another \$1.8 million to the New Mexico Indian Affairs and \$6 million for economic development in the affected communities.

“This is a major win for Navajo workers at San Juan Generating Station and the impacted communities. We commend the New Mexico Supreme Court’s decision to enforce the ETA,” said President Nez.

In August 2019, President Nez, Vice President Lizer, and Resources and Development Committee Chair Rickie Nez went before the Public Regulation Commission in August to advocate for the Navajo workers and their families.

In an Aug. 8 letter to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission members, President Nez and Vice President Lizer stated, “We support the Energy Transition Act because it represents the best way forward for not only the Navajo Nation and Navajo employees affected by the closure of the San Juan Generating Station, but it also supports our neighbors, our environment, and perhaps most importantly, the next generation of New Mexicans and Navajo people.”

“We greatly appreciate Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham’s support and that of many others. This is a victory for Navajo workers and their families,” Vice President Lizer added.

“Today’s unambiguous ruling by the Supreme Court underscores what we have said all along: the Energy Transition Act is the law of the land. I am grateful for the court’s quick and impartial action, and I look forward to continuing New Mexico’s push into a thriving clean energy future,” stated Gov. Lujan Grisham.

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