



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

Timothy Benally, Public Information Officer
(928) 871-7000

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2022

**Navajo Nation leaders commend “Kayenta I” solar facility extension
and new agreement for the construction of the “Cameron Solar” facility**

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council joined NTUA General Manager Walter Haase and SRP General Manager and CEO Mike Hummel in Phoenix, Ariz. on Thursday, to finalize a historic agreement that extends the operation of the existing Kayenta I solar facility through March 2038 and to allow for a new 200-megawatt solar facility known as “Cameron Solar” to be constructed by 2023 on the Navajo Nation.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation leaders join NTUA and SRP for the signing of agreements in Phoenix, Ariz. on Jan. 20, 2022.

“At the start of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we established a new vision for energy development for the Navajo Nation with the signing of the Hayoookaał proclamation, which prioritizes renewable energy initiatives and supports the transition from coal to other resources to help build our economy and make our Nation a key stakeholder in renewable energy across the country. With the partnership of SRP and NTUA, we are making a statement and taking another big step forward to building our Nation, this is about Nation building, and the future of our Navajo people,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Construction of the Kayenta I solar facility, located in the community of Kayenta, Ariz. on the Navajo Nation, began in 2016 and was eventually expanded with the completion of the Kayenta II solar facility in 2019. Combined, the facility currently produces 55-megawatts of emission-free energy to power approximately 36,000 homes on the Navajo Nation.

“Together, we have the power to make changes that reflect the needs of our Navajo people. Right now, our people need jobs, and more revenue to help meet direct services and to build local economies to transform and sustain our communities in the long-term. This partnership will help

in this effort and lead to more project development and innovation. We truly appreciate the support and partnership of SRP and NTUA,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

In April 2021, President Nez and Vice President Lizer were joined by Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr., as they finalized a lease agreement for the construction of the new 200-megawatt “Cameron Solar” generation plant, which will be located in the community of Cameron, Ariz. on the Navajo Nation.

“This collaboration with the Navajo Nation on the Kayenta Solar generation facility supports the Navajo community’s transition from a coal-based economy and has provided a valuable resource to SRP’s growing renewable energy portfolio,” said Mike Hummel, SRP General Manager and CEO. “In addition, we are extremely honored to work alongside NTUA to continue to work together on future projects including Cameron Solar.”

The Cameron Solar project supports the Nez-Lizer Administration’s focus on renewable energy development and the Navajo Nation’s transition away from coal-dependency. The project will generate over \$11 million through the land lease as well as an additional \$32 million in transmission operations over the next 25 years. The project is also expected to generate approximately \$15 million in tax revenues associated with solar and infrastructure, as well as 300-400 job opportunities for Navajo people during construction.

“The NTUA renewable energy development goal is multifaceted which includes helping to generate a new Navajo Nation economy, creating new jobs, keeping electric and utility rates stable, and using excess proceeds to connect homes to the electric grid,” said NTUA General Manager Walter Haase. “NTUA has pledged to work hard to ensure that renewable energy production on the Nation will 100% benefit the Navajo Nation and its people. These agreements are an example of that promise.”

24th Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee Chair Rickie Nez and Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown were also in attendance and spoke about meeting the infrastructure needs of Navajo families and elders who have been living without electricity and other necessities for many years. Cameron Chapter President Charlie Smith, and NTUA Board members were also in attendance to offer their support for the signing of the agreements.

Resources and Development Committee Vice Chair Thomas Walker, Jr., who represents the community of Cameron as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, was unable to attend the signing ceremony but he offered his support stating, “It is very pleasing to witness our Navajo Nation and the Cameron Chapter reach a great milestone for renewable energy development. Our future generations will be the beneficiaries for the new opportunities that are to come. I am proud that Cameron and the Navajo Nation continue to progress forward with green energy, along with NTUA and SRP.”

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.