



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**President Nez urges the Arizona Corporation Commission  
to support Just Transition funding for post-coal communities**



**PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez during the Arizona Corporation Commission town hall on June 21, 2022, in Kayenta, Ariz.**

**KAYENTA, Ariz.** – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez urged the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to support the Navajo Nation’s Just Transition agreement that would provide \$100 million to the Navajo Nation over 10 years to help address the effects of the closure of coal power plants, during a town hall hosted by the Commission in Kayenta, Ariz.

For many years, the Navajo Generating Station, Four Corners Power Plant, and San Juan Generating Station — all located within or near the Navajo Nation — provided thousands of good paying jobs and acted as a dependable source of revenue for the Navajo Nation, while using Navajo Nation resources to provide cities such as Phoenix and Tucson with low-cost electricity. The Navajo Nation has experienced significant financial losses due to the closure of the NGS power plant, ranging from \$30-\$50 million annually. In the next 10 years, the Four Corners Power Plant, the Cholla Power Plant and the San Juan Generating Station will also close.

The Navajo Nation and Arizona Public Service worked diligently to establish a Just Transition agreement that would provide \$100 million to the Navajo Nation over 10 years to help address the effects of the closure of power plants. Key aspects of the agreement are now subject to approval by the Arizona Corporation Commission.

“I am very thankful to the Arizona Corporation Commission for coming to the Navajo Nation and hearing directly from the Navajo people who are affected by the closure of NGS, Kayenta Mine, and the other power plants that are scheduled to close in the coming years. The testimony that the Commission received today comes from the hearts and minds of those who continue to experience the economic, environmental, and other impacts of the previous operations and closures. We ask the ACC to immediately support the agreement that was negotiated in good faith with APS,” said President Nez.

The agreement includes \$100 million dollars to go toward general economic recovery, an additional \$10 million dollars specifically for electrification efforts on the Navajo Nation, alongside a commitment to conduct or fund an assessment of the Nation’s unelectrified homes and businesses, and an assurance that APS will procure 600 megawatts of renewable electricity generation from the Nation or nearby communities. APS will also provide all of their employees at Cholla and Four Corners with job redeployment offers at least six months prior to closure.

President also stated that inflation has decreased the value of the \$100 million that was agreed upon and called on the Commission to approve the agreement as soon as possible. He also spoke about the families living in the most remote areas such as Black Mesa, who were directly impacted by coal mining and still live without basic electricity and water infrastructure in their homes and communities.

Community members and local leaders were also in attendance and spoke in support of the proposed agreement. Former Navajo County Supervisor Percy Deal thanked President Nez for helping to negotiate the agreement, adding that running water is a basic human right that many impacted residents are living without. Navajo County Supervisor Fern Benally, Kayenta Township Commissioners, and chapter officials also spoke during the town hall and called on the ACC to support the agreement.

The Arizona Corporation Commission is scheduled to hold additional town halls at Hardrock Chapter at 1:00 p.m. MDT and at Hopi Junior-Senior High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. MDT on June 22, 2022. For more information about the town halls, please visit the ACC’s website at: <https://www.azcc.gov/news/2022/06/07/arizona-corporation-commission-to-host-four-town-hall-meetings-to-hear-from-coal-impacted-communities>.

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