



Jane Dee Hull  
Governor

Aubrey V. Godwin  
Director



4814 South 40th Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85040-2940

(602) 255-4845  
Fax (602) 437-0705

April 2, 2002

Rodger Martinez  
Retirement Plan Administrator  
The Navajo Nation  
P.O. Box 5100  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	4/3	# of pages	7
To	P. Lohaus		From		
Co./Dept.			Co.		
Phone #			Phone #		
Fax #			Fax #		

Dear Mr. Martinez:

Thank you for your letters of March 29 and April 2, in which you inquired about the risk to employee working with radiation. I particularly appreciate your invitation to attend a meeting with your Retirement Plan Administration Committee. Unfortunately, as you are aware, the State of Arizona is in a budget crises and we have stopped all travel except to respond to emergencies. Currently, the State does not provide travel funds to make inspections to assure that radiation equipment is properly being utilized.

As further information, the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nations resides totally with the federal government and in this case with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We suggested an arrangement with the NRC whereby we would interact with the Navajo Nation but we were rebuffed by the Commission. Therefore the comments in this letter are about the Arizona regulations and are not meant to interpret the NRC regulations in any way. To contact the NRC, please use the following address:

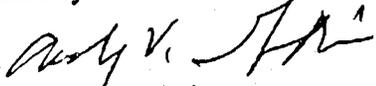
Paul H. Lohaus  
Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555  
301-415-3340  
FAX 301-415-3502

Arizona regulations limit the exposures of individuals such that their risk of injury due to radiation is no greater than for any worker in a laboratory work environment that is conforming to high safety standards. In fact to my knowledge, no insurance company increases the rating on life policies written for radiation workers. I believe that NRC regulations have similar limits as the State of Arizona.

Rodger Martinez  
April 2, 2002

Again thank you for your inquiry. I regret that we cannot be more responsive to your request. As you are aware we have assisted the Navajo Nation in the past, but current circumstances limit our ability at this time. I have taken the liberty of providing a copy of your requests to Mr. Lohaus. He will be able to make the arrangements for the information you need.

Sincerely



Aubrey V. Godwin  
Director

CC Paul Lohaus



# THE NAVAJO NATION

## Retirement Services

P.O. Box 5100 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 • PH. (928) 871-6944 • FAX (928) 871-6640

**KELSEY A. BEGAYE**  
PRESIDENT

**TAYLOR MCKENZIE, M.D.**  
VICE PRESIDENT

March 29, 2002

Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency  
State of Arizona  
Mr. Aubrey V. Godwin, Director  
4814 South 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

Dear Mr. Godwin:

The Navajo Nation Retirement Services is currently revising its Retirement Plan (Plan Document) in reflecting changes to the internal revenue code.

In doing so, the restatement of the Plan Documents, we will review the retirement benefits for employees who handle radioactive materials. The question is should these employees be given additional retirement benefits as opposed to regular status employees? This is a question to employees who work in a hazardous work environments with possible exposure to radioactive source materials.

We are currently researching the hazardous materials these individuals use. Employees who handle radioactive source materials include logging data from abandoned water wells and new water wells on the Navajo Nation. The sources of radioactive material is based on the following:

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | By product, source, and/or<br>Special nuclear material:                               | Americium 241  |
| 2. | Chemical and/or physical form   | Sealed, neutron sources<br>(Nuclear4, Sources and<br>Services Model AN-HR) |
| 3. | Maximum amount that licensee<br>may possess at any one time<br>under this license(s). | 3 Curies   |

I am requesting assistance from your office of the potential effects to the well-being of employees so that proper safety measures are taken for the employees and for the general public. How much radioactive material sources could one be exposed to in handling and

Letter to: Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency  
Mr. Aubrey V. Godwin, Director

March 29, 2002

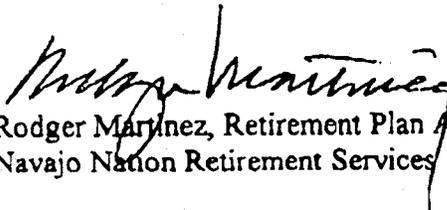
Page 2 of 2

working with source materials in their lifetime as opposed to regular employees working under "normal" work conditions that do not work with radioactive source materials?

Information you provide will assist our office in determining retirement benefits. In addition, I am requesting for your attendance at the next Retirement Plan Administration Committee (RPAC) during the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in Window Rock, Arizona. The committee members have concerns on these issues and have many questions on how other organizations handle such benefits.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please call me at (928) 871-6947 on availability for the RPAC meeting. I can also be e-mailed at: [rodgermartinez@hotmail.com](mailto:rodgermartinez@hotmail.com).

Sincerely,

  
Rodger Martinez, Retirement Plan Administrator  
Navajo Nation Retirement Services



**THE  
NAVAJO  
NATION**

**Retirement Services**

P.O. Box 5100 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 • PH. (928) 871-6944 • FAX (928) 871-6640

**KELSEY A. BEGAYE**  
PRESIDENT

**TAYLOR MCKENZIE, M.D.**  
VICE PRESIDENT

Via Facsimile to: (602) 437-0705

April 3, 2002

Aubrey V. Godwin, Director  
Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency  
4814 South 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

**RE: "Hazardous Pay Work Session"**

Dear Mr. Godwin:

This is to inform you we have scheduled a one-day "Hazardous Pay" work session on Wednesday, April 10, 2002 beginning at 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

I am requesting for your attendance to provide a presentation on the topic of "Radiation". The Retirement Plan Administration Committee have requested for a work session on the issue of hazardous pay issues. In addition, there will be members from the Budget and Finance Committee and Human Services Committee in attendance. I am expecting about 35+ people to be a part of the work session.

The location of work session will be held at the Navajo Nation Museum, Conference Room No. 3, Window Rock, Arizona. (See attached copy of map). The Navajo Nation Museum is located north of Highway 264.

Attached is a proposed agenda. I am requesting for your confirmation to assist in providing a presentation and to answer questions from the committees.

Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (928) 871-6947 or 7641. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Rodger Martinez, Retirement Plan Administrator  
Navajo Nation Retirement Services

Attachments

# PROPOSED HAZARDOUS PAY

Joint Committee Work Session

Retirement Plan Administration Committee; Budget and Finance Committee; and  
Human Services Committee

**April 10, 2002**

Navajo Nation Museum

Window Rock, Arizona

(928) 871-7941

## *Proposed Agenda*

- |                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 9:00 am            | Welcome Address and Introductions;<br>Overview of Agenda<br>Invocation  | Rodger Martinez, Plan Administrator<br>Navajo Nation Retirement Services  |
| 9:15 am            | Condition of Appropriation No. 65:<br>Radioactive Sources/Materials and<br>Hazardous Pay Issues   | Rodger Martinez, Plan Administrator<br><br>Bernadette Bernally, RPAC Member; and<br>Personnel Director, Dept. of Personnel Management<br><br>Marjorie J. McCabe, ASO I<br>Navajo Nation Retirement Services |
|                    | What is Radiation?<br>(Discussion/Recommendations)  | Aubrey V. Godwin, Director<br>Arizona Radiation Regulatory<br>State of Arizona  |
| 10:15 am           | <b><i>BREAK</i></b> (15 Minutes)  |   |
| 10:30 am           | Radiation Updates<br>(Discussion/Recommendations)   | Sherry Miller, Radiation Specialist<br>State of New Mexico  |
| 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm | <b><i>LUNCH</i></b> (On Your Own)   |   |
| 1:30 pm            | Precautionary/Safeguard points  | Retirement Plan Administration Committee<br>Budget and Finance Committee<br>Human Services Committee  |
|                    | What amount of radiation is safe compared to one who handles radioactive sources/materials to the average person who does <u>not</u> work with radioactive sources/materials? |   |
| 3:15 pm            | Recommendations/Comments  | Retirement Plan Administration Committee<br>Budget and Finance Committee<br>Human Services Committee  |
| 3:55 pm            | Benediction   | By Invitation   |
| 4:00 pm            | Adjournment   |   |

# Navajoland Tourism Department



NOTE: not to scale



## Window Rock area

## St. Michaels area

