

November 20, 2007

President Joe Shirley, Jr.
Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President
P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Shirley,

I would like to continue our dialogue initiated on November 8, 2007, at the Congressional Roundtable hosted by Representatives Tom Udall, Jim Matheson, and Rick Renzi. As I indicated to you and to the Members of Congress, I am personally committed, on the part of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), to building greater trust with leaders of the Navajo Nation and with other Native American Tribes regarding NRC's licensing activities. The Commission, senior management, and staff are dedicated to the Agency's mission to ensure protection of public health and safety, and the environment. That mission extends to the Navajo people and to Navajo lands that may be affected by our licensing actions. I am confident that we can work to create opportunities for future exchanges of information and perspectives on these important issues.

As a next step toward enhancing dialogue between the Navajo and the NRC, I would like to meet with you to clarify NRC's role and authority in the regulation of nuclear materials. I would also like to better understand the concerns of the Navajo Nation regarding such and specifically uranium recovery activities. My staff will contact your office to arrange for a meeting at your convenience. Further, I respectfully request your office identify for us the representatives of the Navajo Nation with whom you wish NRC to meet on issues associated with the Congressional Roundtable discussions.

As I indicated at the Congressional Roundtable meeting, NRC seeks to improve and build upon the trust between our Agency and the Navajo Nation. I look forward to continued dialogue with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles L. Miller, Director
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

cc: Representative Henry A. Waxman
Representative Tom Davis
Representative Tom Udall
Representative Jim Matheson
Representative Rick Renzi

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Representative Jim Matheson
Representative Rick Renzi

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