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Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr.
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MAR - 2 2010

Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Chairman Jaczko:

Thank you for the invitation to present the Navajo Nation's issues and concerns regarding Renewed Uranium Recovery once again before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I regret to inform you that I will not be able to attend your briefing, however, I would like to submit the following written comments for the record.

The Navajo Nation expressed its position on renewed Uranium recovery in a December 2008 presentation to the Commission, in testimony submitted to the U.S. Congress and in comments to various federal agencies. Since April 2005, upon enacting the Dine' Natural Resources Protection Act, and restated in Congressional hearings on October 2007, the Navajo Nation has a moratorium on any and all Uranium mining and milling activities on Navajo Nation lands. Also, the Navajo Nation has formally requested that the U.S. government to authorize a moratorium on all potential Uranium recovery actions on the Navajo Nation lands, and in areas that could impact the resources of the Navajo Nation.

Pursuant to a congressionally mandated Five-Year Action Plan, five federal agencies are in the process of addressing the negative impacts of past Uranium recovery, both to the environment and to the public health of people exposed to Uranium legacy materials. Since June 2008, these federal agencies initiated long overdue review, study, characterization and clean up actions at several abandoned uranium mine sites and other sites found to be contaminated with Uranium industry waste materials. There is still much work to be done.

I respectfully request the continued support of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where ever it may be of assistance to the U.S. EPA, U.S. DOE, U.S. DHHS-IHS, and U.S. DOI-BIA, in addressing the Uranium legacy issues; and to support the Navajo Nation's request for a federal moratorium on any potential future Uranium recovery that may impact Navajo Nation lands. If you would like to contact me, you may do so by calling (928) 871-7692.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Etsitty,
Executive Director