



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

CHAIRMAN

May 19, 2022

Annie Benally
Red Water Pond Road Community Association

Dear Ms. Benally:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I would like to thank you for your April 22, 2022, letter and for your comments during the meeting at the Red Water Pond Road Community Cha'a'oh ("Shade House") earlier that day. We appreciate you taking the time to tell us your story, describing the Navajo traditions and customs, and explaining how the Navajo beliefs help to create the sacred places that connect you and your ancestors to your homelands. At the community meeting, we heard about the many issues that you have dealt with over the years from uranium mining and milling and recognize the physical and emotional health effects and impacts on your community's way of life and on people's cultural and spiritual wellbeing.

The meetings on April 22 were moving, informative, and thought-provoking. After the meetings, the Commission directed the NRC staff to hold on the issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Final Safety Evaluation Report to have additional time to consider what we heard and the United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) mill site proposal. We are committed to ensuring any NRC licensing action is protective of your community's health and safety, while we recognize the other significant challenges your community faces in the areas of housing, healthcare, and education.

Thank you again for sharing your experience and concerns with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Hanson".

Christopher T. Hanson

cc: Jonathan Nez,
President of the Navajo Nation

Valinda Shirley,
Executive Director, Navajo Nation EPA

Edith Hood,
President, Red Water Pond Road Organization