



CHAIRMAN

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

April 29, 2026

Dr. Buu Nygren, President  
The Navajo Nation, Arizona,  
New Mexico, & Utah  
Post Office Box 7440  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear President Nygren:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated March 18, 2026 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML26083A306](#)). The NRC fulfills the Federal government's trusted responsibility to Indian Tribes by implementing its Tribal Policy Statement, applying regulatory protections, and honoring obligations established by relevant treaties and statutes. I appreciate that you reached out to us.

The NRC understands the importance of restoring lands impacted by abandoned uranium mine waste on the Navajo Nation and is actively engaged in identifying potential regulatory solutions. Thank you for your recognition of our staff's work to enable the safe use of new remediation technologies to address these wastes. As you know, the NRC issued a service provider license for the use of High-Pressure Slurry Ablation technology in September 2025.

The NRC staff is currently evaluating the High-Pressure Slurry Ablation process to determine if the fines concentrates produced during treatment may be considered equivalent feed for uranium recovery processing. Once this determination is complete, we will make the results of our evaluation publicly available.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Andrea Kock, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards at [Andrea.Kock@nrc.gov](mailto:Andrea.Kock@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ho K. Nieh".

Ho K. Nieh

cc: Stephen Etsitty, Executive Director  
Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 339  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Chris Wright, Energy Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Lee Zeldin, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
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