

Infrastructure Requirements: Navajo Nation's Approach in a period of Transition

Presented to the NM Water and Natural Resources Committee

By

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Presentation Content

Introduction

Challenges at this time

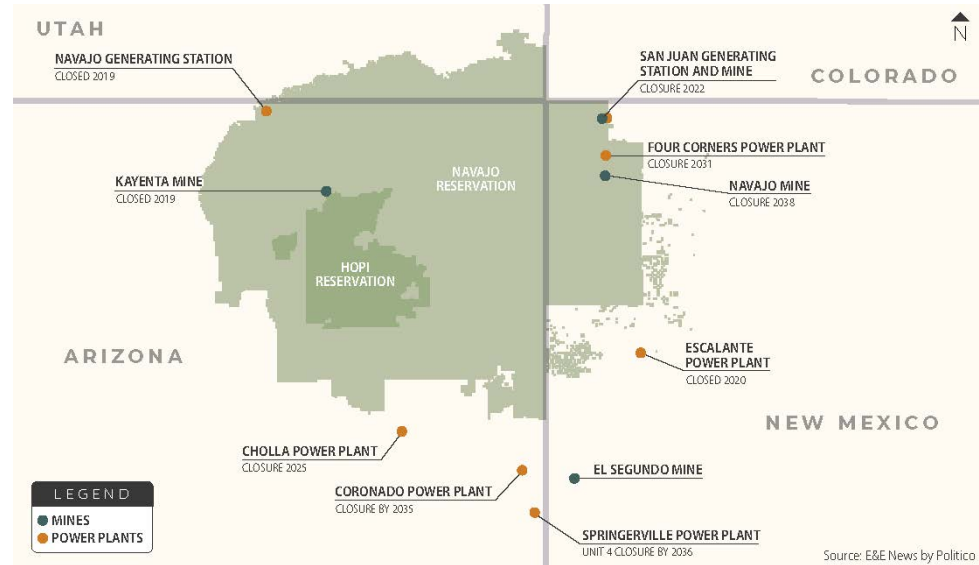
Infrastructure

Target Areas

Next Steps

Challenges

- ▶ The Nygren-Montoya Administration and the Navajo Nation Council have been in office for 6 months.
- ▶ The Navajo Nation is experiencing a transition within the Energy Sector of the Navajo Nation
 - Coal reliant communities
- ▶ Working through the after-effects of the COVID pandemic
- ▶ Rebuilding capacity within the government
- ▶ Focus on how to address infrastructure needs
 - Roads / Transportation
 - Broadband
 - Water
 - Electricity
- ▶ Building Economic Diversity
- ▶ Jobs
- ▶ Housing



Additional Challenges

- The Four Corners region is the largest Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the nation with no freight rail
- There is no interstate in the region shown in the circle and there is no international commercial air.
- Internet capabilities are very limited in this region.



- ▶ Strategic direction
 - Key Areas of Focus: 1)Economy, 2)Education, Environment, 3) Government Efficiency and Effectiveness, 4) Health, 5) Infrastructure, 6) Natural Resources, 7) Public Safety, 8) Social Services
 - Executive Branch ---> Divisions ---> Dept. and Programs
- ▶ Reviewing the roles of the Tribal enterprises
- ▶ Promote Economic Diversification
- ▶ Emphasize Regional Partnerships
- ▶ Tribal participation in economic based projects
 - Industrial Recruitment & Development
 - Workforce Development
 - Job Creation
 - Small Business Support

What is the
approach of
the Navajo
Nation?

Infrastructure

- ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Road construction and renovation
 - ▶ 491 and 550 expanded to 4-land highways
 - ▶ 264, 64, and 371 need repair
 - ▶ Railroad connection between San Juan County and I-40 rail corridor
- ▶ Water
 - ▶ Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (water along 491 and 550) - USBR
- ▶ Electricity
 - ▶ Light up Navajo - NTUA
- ▶ Broadband
 - ▶ Federal funding available (coordination of project development) for infrastructure build out
 - ▶ E-rate, NTIA, IRA, ARPA, Rural Addressing
- ▶ Housing
 - ▶ 1000 Home Initiative

Target Areas

Energy Development

- Vetting Team looking at projects
- US DOE support
- Open to alternative energy sources: solar, geothermal, hydrogen, pump storage

Manufacturing

- Glove Manufacturing, Raytheon

Agriculture

- Navajo Agriculture Products Industry: farming, value added product

Tourism

- Cultural sites
- Scenic and wildlife areas

Small Business Development

- Waive Business site lease payments for 36 months
- Build out broadband capabilities to support location neutral, education, workforce development, etc.

Next Steps

Partnership

Continue to develop a positive partnership with the State of New Mexico.



Identify

Identify projects/initiatives that will promote a positive relationship that will benefit the 4 Corners region.



Establish

Establish effective partnerships with surrounding counties and municipalities in the 4 Corners region.

Thank You
Questions and Answers