



# THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT • MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



March 28, 2022

Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Brooke Clark, Office of General Counsel  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Submitted via email to: [Annette.Vietti-Cook@nrc.gov](mailto:Annette.Vietti-Cook@nrc.gov) and [Brooke.Clark@nrc.gov](mailto:Brooke.Clark@nrc.gov)

RE: Redwater Pond Community Concerns

Dear Annette and Brooke:

On March 27, 2022, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) staff met with members of the Redwater Pond Road (RWPR) Community to help them prepare for the April 22 community meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We distributed a packet of printed materials consisting of the proposed April 22 community meeting agenda, a diagram layout plan for the meeting site, and the official notice of the NRC Public Hearing from the Federal Register. There were several members of the RWPR Community in attendance including: Peterson Bell, Anna Benally, Arthur Hood, Edith Hood, Teracita Keyanna, and Bertha Nez. Also, a representative of the Pipeline Community, Roger Lewis, attended.

The meeting lasted about three hours and the following lists the concerns expressed by those in attendance about the proposed meeting with NRC:

1. The proposed time of 1.5 hours to meet with the community at RWPR event site is not enough time. More time should be spent hearing the RWPR Community's concerns, and it was suggested a whole afternoon should be spent listening to the concerns of every community member who would like to share their experiences relating to the NRC decision.
2. Due to the limited time, NRC must consider simultaneous translation from Navajo into English. To have an interpreter translate after each speaker at the community meeting will only consume more of the limited time that they presently have. Translation after every speaker would double the amount of time spent on the speaker and then the translator.
3. The concern that the translation of Navajo to English may not accurately capture what is being said. The Diné language can be extremely complicated and an experienced translator with knowledge of uranium technical terms is recommended to conduct the simultaneous translations.

4. The concern that the public hearing is open to invited speakers only. The RWPR Community should be given every opportunity to speak at both the community meeting and the public hearing.

These are some of the main concerns that were raised by the members in attendance. Their level of hurt and the lack of response to their concerns has only made this situation more difficult. I respectfully ask that you consider these requests and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Valinda Shirley (Mar 28, 2022 21:11 MDT)  
Valinda Shirley, Executive Director

cc: Paulson Chaco, Chief of Staff, Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice-President






# 2022.03.28 Ltr to NRC re RWPR concerns. for signature

Final Audit Report

2022-03-29

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## McCloskey, Bridin

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**Attachments:** 2022.03.28 Ltr to NRC re RWPR concerns. for signature - signed.pdf

**From:** Valinda C. Shirley <[valinda.shirley@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:valinda.shirley@navajo-nsn.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:00 AM

**To:** Vietti-Cook, Annette <[Annette.Vietti-Cook@nrc.gov](mailto:Annette.Vietti-Cook@nrc.gov)>; Clark, Brooke <[Brooke.Clark@nrc.gov](mailto:Brooke.Clark@nrc.gov)>

**Cc:** Paulson Chaco <[paulsonchaco@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:paulsonchaco@navajo-nsn.gov)>; Baval, Rochelle <[Rochelle.Baval@nrc.gov](mailto:Rochelle.Baval@nrc.gov)>; Coflin, Monika <[Monika.Coflin@nrc.gov](mailto:Monika.Coflin@nrc.gov)>; Welkie, Andy <[Andrew.Welkie@nrc.gov](mailto:Andrew.Welkie@nrc.gov)>; Bollwerk, Paul <[Paul.Bollwerk@nrc.gov](mailto:Paul.Bollwerk@nrc.gov)>; Held, Wesley <[Wesley.Held@nrc.gov](mailto:Wesley.Held@nrc.gov)>; Christopher T. Bahe <[cbahe@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:cbahe@navajo-nsn.gov)>; Shaun T. Sells <[ssells@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ssells@navajo-nsn.gov)>; Jared T. Touchin <[jtouchin@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:jtouchin@navajo-nsn.gov)>; Merv J. Lynch <[mlynch@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:mlynch@navajo-nsn.gov)>; Vivian Craig <[viviancraig@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:viviancraig@navajo-nsn.gov)>

**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Redwater Pond Community Concerns

Good morning,

I recently met with the community and have attached a letter listing their concerns with the April 22 NRC community meeting and public hearing. I look forward to discussing next steps on our Friday call.

Best Regards,

Valinda Shirley, Executive Director  
Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency  
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