



NAVAJO NATION WASHINGTON OFFICE

To: Ben Shelly, President, The Navajo Nation
Johnny Naize, Speaker, The Navajo Nation Council

From: Clara Pratte, Executive Director, NNWO

Date: October 12, 2012

RE: November 14, 2012 meeting with Secretary Salazar

During Secretary Salazar's visit to the Navajo Nation on September 28, 2012, the Secretary invited representatives of the Navajo Nation to meet with him in Washington, DC on November 14, 2012. The purpose of this meeting is for the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe to discuss mutual issues of concerns namely the Little Colorado River Settlement, Navajo Generating System, and Bennett Freeze rebuilding. Importantly and what we anticipate the majority of the meeting will focus on is their concerns regarding the Little Colorado River Settlement.

The Secretary believes that if the Tribes can come to agreement on the portions of the settlement that have raised the most objections, he can convince Senator Kyl to make changes to the settlement. If the settlement can be changed there may be a window of opportunity for passage during the upcoming "Lame Duck" Congress after the November election.

The water settlement is a priority for the Obama Administration as they seek to ensure funding for all of Indian Country as many tribes have staked their right and claims to water across the country.

While the Secretary envisions other opportunities to meet with Navajo delegations to discuss the issues that were raised during the September 28 meeting, the purpose of the November 14 meeting will solely be to discuss the Little Colorado River Settlement. A formal letter of invitation will be forthcoming.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

OCT 12 2012

Mr. Johnny Naize
Speaker, Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear Speaker Naize:

I want to thank you for the work you do every day on behalf of the Navajo Nation. During my recent visit with you at Navajo, I saw first-hand how your dedication and leadership are making a real difference for Navajo people. As a follow up to my visit with you and members of the Navajo Council Delegation, I would like to formally invite you to the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., to participate in a Navajo-Hopi Conference on November 14, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to advance the resolution of key issues which impact both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. Specifically, I propose that we address the following issues: the Navajo-Hopi Little Colorado River Water Rights Settlement, the Navajo Generating Station, and the Bennett Freeze area.

Most importantly, I believe that between now and the end of this year we have a unique opportunity to build upon our success with the Navajo-Gallup Pipeline Project by settling the Little Colorado River litigation and ensuring the delivery of wet water and an infrastructure system on the western portion of the Navajo Nation. In addition, as underscored by our recent work to address the Nation's concerns with the Environmental Protection Agency's Best Available Retrofit Technology rulemaking for the Navajo Generating Station, we are committed to fulfilling our trust responsibilities to the Nation and all tribes on this important matter. In addition, I want to work with the Nation to identify solutions to address the housing situation in the Bennett Freeze area, which impacts both Navajo and Hopi tribal members.

I look forward to seeing you in November. Please contact Mr. Dion KILLSBACK, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at Dion_Killsback@ios.doi.gov or (202) 208-6939 to RSVP for this meeting.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar