

USEPA SUPPORT FOR NAVAJO NATION



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Financial Support to Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency: Over \$93 million

Cleanup of Abandoned Uranium Mines: Over \$100 million

Water infrastructure improvements: Over \$100 million

Financial and Technical Support to Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

In 1984, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) awarded the first grant to the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), and to date we have awarded over \$93 million to develop and implement environmental programs and for infrastructure development. The Navajo Nation is currently managing 17 USEPA grants. The NNEPA currently employs 74 employees.

Water Infrastructure Improvements and Protection

- The Navajo Nation drinking water program regulates approximately 160 public water systems that serves over 150,000 people on the Navajo Nation adhering to federal monitoring and public notice requirements.
- The NNEPA received primacy for its drinking water program in 2000, since that time the USEPA has provided approximately \$13 million in grants to support their regulated water systems.
- USEPA has funded over \$85 million of Navajo-sponsored wastewater infrastructure projects and \$24.4 million in drinking water infrastructure projects.
- NNEPA inspectors conduct approximately 100 water pollution control field investigations annually including biosolids inspections and complaint follow-up inspections.

Uranium Mine Cleanup

- USEPA and five other federal agencies provided over \$100 million in federal funds to reduce the highest risks to Navajo people by remediating 47 contaminated homes, providing safe drinking water to 3013 homes, and conducting urgent cleanup actions at nine mine sites.
- In 2015, USEPA recovered almost \$1 billion from a litigation settlement to address more than 50 former Kerr-McGee mines. Navajo Nation received a settlement of approximately \$45 million for the Shiprock Mill site claim. These funds were deposited in the Navajo Nation's Superfund account.

Protection of Navajo People from Pesticide Misuse

- The Navajo Nation Pesticide Program conducts approximately 100 pesticide inspections per year with support from USEPA.

Air Pollution Control

- The NNEPA has been implementing its air pollution permitting program for 11 years, and collecting the permitting fees for 13 major sources. The NNEPA was the first tribe in the nation to get delegation of this program.
- The USEPA has funded the Navajo Nation Air program over the past 30 years, providing more than \$7 million in funding to the program under the Clean Air Act.
- Four Corners Power Plant (FCPP) Settlement is providing \$3.2 million for stove changeouts and \$1.5 million for weatherization.
- USEPA also invested \$90,000 to create a public service announcement and outreach materials on wood and coal smoke, and on research with Dine College on home heating alternatives on the Navajo Nation to reduce exposure to coal and wood smoke.

Protection of Land and Water from Leaking Tanks

- Beginning in 2000, USEPA has invested over \$10 million in addressing leaking underground storage tanks (LUST) and underground storage tanks (UST) funding on the Navajo Nation. Over 240 leaking underground storage tanks have been assessed and remediated, using a combination of tribal and federal underground tank resources.
- The USEPA funds the NNEPA to inspect approximately 50 underground storage tanks annually.