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PRESS RELEASE:

NNEPA Executive Director Appointed to Arizona Climate Change Advisory Group

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) Executive Director Stephen B. Etsitty has been appointed to the newly established Arizona Governor's Advisory Group on Climate Change. Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano established the states' Advisory Group through an executive order on February 2, 2005 in response to the Coalition of Western Governors' recognition that western states need to work on impacts from climate change. Arizona's Advisory Group on Climate change will include 36 members including tribes and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality will be the lead agency to work with this group. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2005, at the State Capitol in Phoenix, Arizona.

Nationally, climate change or global warming has been a serious topic because the scientific community speculates that weather in the recent years have been attributable to buildup of green house gasses. Global warming results from the accumulation of green house gases that affect the earth's ozone layer. Green house gases are emitted by power plants, vehicular emissions and other industrial activities.

The Western Governors Association has recognized that extremes in weather patterns have an effect on people in a detrimental manner and have come together to begin addressing issues that could conserve natural resources, reduce green house gas emissions and to better prepare for emergency response to fires, floods, and other natural disasters. Extremes in weather patterns can have detrimental affects on city, county and state budgets and states need to devise plans to make certain there are financial as well as other resources to minimize impacts.

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., said, "It is important that the Navajo Nation be represented on the state's Climate Change group because the Navajo Nation needs to be included on discussions regarding climate change. Who better than the executive director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency to serve on this advisory group? NNEPA received a delegation of authority to administer the Clean Air Act, title V Permit Program: and is working diligently towards assuming full authority to regulate fourteen major sources of emissions on the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation is ready to participate and contribute in the development of recommendations for a comprehensive Arizona Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan."

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