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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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(Phoenix) The Navajo Nation Council voted to approve a lease agreement to extend operations of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) to December 2019.

The station, located near Page, is owned by Salt River Project (SRP), Arizona Public Service Company (APS), Tucson Electric Power (TEP), and NV Energy.

SRP was considering shutting down its coal-fired units later this year in order to find lower-cost natural gas elsewhere.

Commissioner Andy Tobin made the following statement regarding the vote:

“For the thousands of Arizonans whose lives and livelihoods are tied to the Navajo Generating Station, this announcement to extend the operations of the plant is no doubt met with relief. NGS is a pillar of both rural Arizona and Indian Country’s economies. To suddenly hand out pink slips to thousands of Arizonans is simply unacceptable. There have been many voices fighting for years to protect NGS – and for good reason, this issue affects real lives. I plan to keep fighting for those citizens, and will continue conversations with all parties involved in this issue. We need a long-term solution that allows these hard-working Arizonans to continue putting food on the table for their families and ensures a reliable energy future for the state of Arizona.”

The Corporation Commission does not regulate SRP; however, Commissioner Tobin has encouraged APS and TEP to explore other options for keeping NGS open.