



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

February 6, 2017

Farmington Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
6251 College Blvd., Suite A
Farmington, NM 87402

Re: Concerns regarding Chaco Canyon Cultural Historic Park

The Navajo Nation is concerned that increased drilling in the Eastern Navajo area is beginning to encroach on Chaco Cultural National Historic Park, to which the Navajo Nation and Navajo people have critical cultural and historical ties. In addition, I am concerned that the increased surface activity from drilling is interrupting the daily lives of Navajo people who live in the Navajo Nation Chapters such as Counselor, Nageezi, Torreon and Ojo Encino.

Due to the impacts on Chaco and the Navajo people, the Nation asks for the Bureau of Land Management to place a moratorium on fracking-related activities such as multi-stage hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling and lease sales and permit approvals in the Mancos Shale/Gallup formation in the greater Chaco area until such as time as the amendment to the resource management plan is completed and an environmental impact statement is finalized.

Sincerely,

THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Begaye".

Russell Begaye, *President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan M. Nez".

Jonathan M. Nez, *Vice President*