From:	Harris-Bishop, Rusty
To:	Glosson, Niloufar; McKaughan, Colleen; Keener, Bill; Zito, Kelly; Maier, Brent; Lee, Anita; Lyons, Ann
Cc:	Drinkard, Andrea; Saltman, Tamara; Belknap, Andra
Subject:	RE: NGS - Proposal addresses pollution at Navajo coal plant
Date:	Friday, July 26, 2013 2:25:45 PM

Here is another article on NGS:

Historic Agreement Reached for Navajo Generating Station

ICTMN Staff
July 26, 2013

The electricity delivery from the Navajo Generating Station will continue well into the future – while achieving significant air pollution reductions.

That was the announcement made this morning by the Department of the Interior, which said it is part of an agreement that was reached to continue the services of NGS.

That agreement was signed by the Department of the Interior, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Navajo Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Project, Environmental Defense Fund, and Western Resources Advocates.

With the agreement came a proposed "Reasonable Progress Alternative to BART," that was submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency today for consideration in developing the final Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) rule for NGS.

"This consensus agreement among a very diverse group of interested parties is nothing short of historic," said Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle in a DOI press release. "Through collaboration and cooperation, this innovative proposal will not only significantly reduce harmful emissions, it will also mitigate the plant's carbon footprint and ensure continued generation of electricity that helps power the local economy."

NGS, while being the largest coal-fired power plant in the West, is also the single sources of nitrogen oxide air pollution in the country, contributing to ozone and fine particle pollution in the region – home to the Grand Canyon and 10 other national parks and wilderness areas according to the release. Another significance for the NGS is that it provides more than "90 percent of the power for the Central Arizona Project (CAP), the state's primary water delivery system, and plays a critical role in numerous tribal economies."

The EPA in February issued a proposed BART rule for NGS to meet Clean Air Act legal mandates, recognizing the important role NGS plays on the regional economy, the EPA invited alternative proposals. According to the release, a Technical Working Group that consists of NGS owners, the DOI, affected tribes and other interested parties came together and submitted a supplemental proposal. "The group worked to address the concerns of many diverse interests in the plant and to provide the best path forward for all parties, in a manner that reflects current and future economic and environmental considerations," the DOI release states.

Emissions of nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide will be significantly reduced under the agreement, while maintaining essential operations at NGS into the future.

Key items within the agreement are:

--An 11.3 million metric tons, or 3 percent annually, carbon dioxide emissions reduction no later than December 31

-- 80 percent clean energy by 2035 for the U.S. share in NGS

-- $5 million Local Benefit Fund for community improvement projects within 100 miles of NGS or the Kayenta Mine, which supplies coal to NGS.

-- Development of a 33-megawatt solar energy facility for the Gila River Indian Community

-- DOI will provide copy00 million over 10 years, beginning in 2020, to provide financial assistance to tribes in Arizona that rely on water from the Central Arizona Project.

The release states "[t]he agreement reached today will further the objectives set forth in the Joint Statement to find ways to produce 'clean, affordable and reliable power, affordable and sustainable water supplies, and sustainable economic development, while minimizing negative impacts on those who currently obtain significant benefits from NGS, including tribal nations.'"

Read more at http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/07/26/historic-agreement-reached-navajo-generating-station-150606

From: Glosson, Niloufar
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 8:02 AM
To: McKaughan, Colleen; Keener, Bill; Zito, Kelly; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Maier, Brent; Lee, Anita; Lyons, Ann
Cc: Drinkard, Andrea; Saltman, Tamara; Belknap, Andra
Subject: NGS - Proposal addresses pollution at Navajo coal plant

Proposal addresses pollution at Navajo coal plant

By FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press
Published 12:05 am, Friday, July 26, 2013

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants haze-causing nitrogen oxide emissions reduced by 84 percent at a coal-fired power plant on the Navajo Nation, but a group meeting over the past few months on the proposal says it can do better.

An alternative plan to be submitted Friday to the EPA would shut down one of three 750-megawatt units at the Navajo Generating Station near Page by 2020, cutting pollution beyond what the EPA has proposed. The plant's operator, Salt River Project, said the plan takes into account potential ownership changes and pushes back the implementation of expensive pollution controls.

It also sets a firm deadline for shutting down the largest coal-fired power plant in the West by 2044, unless the Navajo Nation opts to run it itself.

"We believe as the owners that operating two units in the future is a good outcome," said Mike Hummel of SRP. "We believe that's a better outcome than putting us in a position where we may not have any units running."

Should the plan fall through, the group has a backup plan to reduce emissions that would be equivalent to shuttering one unit.

The EPA's proposal gives the power plant's owners 10 years to install technology that would improve visibility at places like the Grand Canyon. The alternative proposal brought forth by SRP, tribal and federal officials, environmental groups, and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, would give the power plant's owners an additional five years to make decisions on major investments in pollution controls.

The National Parks Conservation Association, which wasn't involved in crafting the alternative, isn't endorsing it because it doesn't provide as much assurance as the EPA's proposal in improving air quality.

"We stand ready to work with the stakeholders to refine some of the plan's deficiencies and its unfortunate 'escape ramps' that result in more years of dirty air at the Grand Canyon and the other 11 national parks and wilderness areas in the region," said Kevin Dahl, the association's program manager in Arizona.

Navajo President Ben Shelly said shutting down one unit isn't favorable for the tribe's economy, which relies heavily on natural resources for revenue. But, he said it is better than a complete shutdown of the plant that would result in the loss of hundreds of jobs at the power plant and associated coal mine.

A 25-year lease extension for the power plant that Shelly is expected to sign next week also gives the tribe the option of purchasing a share of Navajo Generating Station.

Two of the plant's owners — Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and NV Energy Inc. — have signaled their intent to cut ties with Navajo Generating Station by 2019. SRP, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Tucson Electric Power Co. and Arizona Public Service Co. also own shares of the power generated at the plant.

The EPA will consider the alternative proposal along with any other comments submitted on the EPA's own proposal before issuing a final rule for pollution controls. The deadline for public comments is Oct. 4.

The EPA has embraced similar proposals. When it issued a final rule for the 2,040-megawatt Four Corners Power Plant in northwestern New Mexico, it gave the plant's owners the option of upgrading the five units or shutting down three units and installing pollution controls at the two others. New Mexico also had brokered an agreement with federal regulators and the state's largest utility to shut down two units at the nearby 1,800-megawatt San Juan Generating Station by the end of 2017 and replace them with a new natural gas-fired plant.

The Navajo Generating Station is more complex in that it meets power demands in the West but also sends water through a series of canals to Arizona's most populous cities and helps fulfills water rights settlements with American Indian tribes.

Thanks,

- - Niloufar

Niloufar Nazmi Glosson
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
D: (415)972-3684| **C**: 415-328-1143| **E:** Glosson.niloufar@epa.gov