

MOTION

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & RISK

In 2019, and after 50 years of operations, the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) closed down and so did operations of the Kayenta coal mine associated with it. Once the shutdown was completed the multi-partied ownership agreement required the immediate cleanup and remediation of the Kayenta mine and the NGS in a process called 'reclamation' that includes among other activities the backfilling of pits, replacing topsoil, and removing the unused and outdated infrastructure and other measures to restore environmental integrity to the area.

That reclamation, while it has begun, has not been sufficient, and fears are, like with the Mojave Generating Station (MGS) and the Black Mesa coal mine, whose operations used some 45 billion gallons of groundwater to transport "slurry" and thereby shrank and polluted the local aquifer, that not enough will be done. A current temporary cessation of the reclamation activities at Kayenta Mine is cause for concern.

The City of Los Angeles through the Department of Water and Power (DWP) held an ownership stake in NGS along with the United States Department of Interior and several other entities. The impacts from decades of mining have had major impacts on the air and water quality and dried up watering holes and wells relied upon by families and livestock in the area, and some responsibility for these is borne by the ownership of NGS.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power (DWP) be requested to report to the Council in 30 days on the efforts to engage Peabody Energy, the U.S. Department of Interior and others in the funding, cleanup and complete remediation of both the Black Mesa and Kayenta Coal mines, as well as the Mojave Generating Station and the Navajo Generating Station, and related areas, including buildings, roads and rail lines.

I FURTHER MOVE that the DWP be requested to include the Navajo Nation and Hopi tribal members in these efforts of engagement and, with them, to explore the cleanup efforts and the options to reinvest in green renewable energy production within these areas as a way to help improve their local economies in only ways desired by them.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5TH District

SECONDED BY:



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