RESOLUTION NO. TC-NOV-22-06-Vb

APPROVAL BY THE PUEBLO OF ACOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL TO PROTECT SACRED SITES AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES RELATED TO THE ACOMA CULTURE PROVINCE

At a duly called meeting of the Tribal Council of the Pueblo of Acoma held on this 13th day of December, 2006 the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS:

Section No. 1 The Pueblo of Acoma is a sovereign Indian Nation, recognized as such by the federal government of the United States of America and in the exercise of its Tribal sovereignty remains organized in accordance with Pueblo tradition; and

Section No. 2 The Pueblo of Acoma accepted the terms of the Indian Reorganization Act (Congressional Act of June 18, 1934, Chapter 576, Codified at United States Code § 461-479 (IRA). However, The Pueblo is not organized under the IRA and has no written Constitution; and

Section No. 3 The Acoma Tribal Council is the legislative authority for the Pueblo of Acoma. This resolution is passed in exercising the responsibilities and authorities of the Tribal Council for and in the best interest of the Pueblo of Acoma; and

Section No. 4 Pursuant to this status, the Pueblo of Acoma is authorized to protect its traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not they are located within Acoma's current exterior boundaries, as determined in Acoma's land claim before the Indian Claims Commission, Docket 266; and
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Section No. 5  The protection of Acoma’s cultural and natural resources for use by the Acoma community is an essential part of the Pueblo’s duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community and its cultural preservation now and into the future; and

Section No. 6  Past mining activities in the region have detrimentally affected air, land, water and the public health; and

Section No. 7  The issuance of uranium and coal mining, milling, and other development permits upstream of Acoma threatens further degradation and impairment to Acoma’s water and cultural resources within the Acoma Culture Province, as well as other natural resources within Acoma’s exterior boundaries; and

Section No. 8  To date, no decree has been issued in the Rio San Jose stream adjudication (State of New Mexico ex rel. v. Kerr-McGee et al., Nos. CB-83-190-CV and CB-83-220-CV, Consolidated) quantifying the water rights of senior water users within the Rio San Jose Basin; and

Section No. 9  Affording the greatest protection to the Rio San Jose watershed and the public health necessitates a responsibility to protect the sacredness of significant cultural landscapes which serve as places of worship and spiritual landmarks; and

Section 10  Acoma’s right to unimpaired access these areas to continue traditional cultural practices, existing from time immemorial will assure maximum protection of sacred sites and their pristine ecology within the Acoma Culture Province, as well as the Rio San Jose watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section No. 1  The Pueblo of Acoma enters its continuing objection to any and all activities which it determines will impair right of free access to practice its traditional cultural activities, or will adversely impact sacred sites or cultural properties affiliated with the Acoma Cultural Province; and

Section No. 2  The Pueblo of Acoma enters its continuing objection to any and all activities which it determines will impair the priority and quality of its senior water rights within the Rio San Jose Basin: and
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Section No. 3 The Pueblo of Acoma will take all measures necessary to safeguard the health and welfare of the Acoma community now and into the future; and

Section No. 4 The Pueblo of Acoma reaffirms the requirement for meaningful government-to-government consultation for all federal undertakings affecting Acoma's traditional cultural properties, as mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the National Forest Service Management Act (including the 2005 Planning Rule), the Clean Water Act, (inclusive of the Pueblo of Acoma Water Quality Standards), and the National Environmental Policy Act, and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice).

(Acoma Culture Province map attached)


dabupu, Pueblo of Acoma

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ATTEST:

Kudyaát'ita, Pueblo of Acoma
ALL INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 2006-19

SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF MT. TAYLOR AND ALL SACRED SITES
AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES RELATED TO THE PUEBLOS OF ACOMA AND
LAGUNA AND THE NINETEEN PUEBLOS OF NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, the All Indian Pueblo Council ("AIPC") is comprised of the nineteen
Pueblos of New Mexico including the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna,
Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa
Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia and Zuni, each having sovereign
authority to govern their own affairs; and

WHEREAS, the AIPC seeks to represent its peoples’ interests, welfare, and

WHEREAS, each of the AIPC members is an indigenous nation within the United States
with its own cultural territory and sovereign right to protect its traditional cultural
properties and sacred sites, whether or not they are located within each pueblo’s current
exterior boundaries and

WHEREAS, the protection of each pueblo’s cultural and natural resources is necessary
to each pueblo’s cultural preservation now and into the future, and

WHEREAS, the issuance of uranium and coal exploration, development and processing
permits within the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna’s cultural territory threatens irreparable
degradation and impairment to the natural and cultural resources of the Pueblo’s, as well
as the cultural resources of all the nineteen pueblos comprising the AIPC, and

WHEREAS, affording the greatest protection to our watersheds and the public health is
tied to the protection of the sacredness of significant cultural landscapes which serve as
common places of worship and spiritual landmarks for all nineteen pueblos, and

WHEREAS, each pueblo’s right to unimpaired access areas such as Mt. Taylor to
continue traditional cultural practices, existing from time immemorial will assure
maximum protection of sacred sites and their pristine ecology within our cultural
territories.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the All Indian Pueblo Council
supports the Pueblo of Acoma and Laguna’s continuing objection to any and all activities
which it determines will impair the right of free access to practice its traditional cultural
activities, or will adversely impact sacred sites or cultural properties affiliated with Mt. Taylor, located within the Pueblo’s Cultural Province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the All Indian Pueblo Council requests the support of the National Congress of American Indians in the Pueblos’ efforts to secure and ensure the protections of the Pueblos’ cultural resources.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the All Indian Pueblo Council supports the requirement for meaningful government-to-government consultation for all federal undertakings affecting each pueblo’s traditional cultural properties, as mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the National Forest Service Management Act (including the 2005 Planning Rule), the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice).

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2006-19 was passed on December 15, 2006 at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present, with 19 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.

[Signature]
Amadeo Shije, Chairman

ATTEST:
Resolution of the Diné Hataalii Association

Opposing Uranium Exploration, Mining and Processing on and around Tsoodzil (Mt. Taylor), and Requesting Consultation of the Affected Native American Communities

WHEREAS,

1. The Diné Hataalii Association is qualified to comment on matters of Navajo custom, it being regarded by the Navajo people as comprised of men and women who act and speak with authority and authenticity on matters of traditional healing and Navajo custom based on their possession of medicine bundles considered as sacred holdings; and

2. The Diné Hataalii Association is spiritually empowered by the holy deities and entities from the four sacred directions and mountains to protect, promote, perpetuate, and sustain, cultural integrity in terms of it’s history, language, philosophy, sacred objects, cultural items, traditional healing ceremonies, and medicine bundles considered as sacred holdings; and

3. The Diné Bi Beehaz’ánii Bitsé Šilé, the declaration of the foundation of Diné law, predates the formation and establishment of the U.S. Constitution; and

4. The Diné bi beenahaz’ánii (Law) embodies Diyin bitsáádégé beeheaz’ánii (Traditional Law), Diyin Diné bitsáádégé’ beeheaz’ánii (Customary Law), Nahashzdán doo Yádihi bitsáádégé’ beeheaz’ánii (Natural Law), and Diyin Nohookáa Diné bi beeheaz’ánii (Common Law), which provide sanctuary for the Diné life and culture, our relationship with the world beyond the sacred mountains, and the balance we maintain with the natural world; and

5. These Fundamental Laws of the Diné have been codified in Title II of the Navajo Nation Code; and

6. Tsoodzil (Mt. Taylor) figures prominently in the origin, clan and ceremonial stories of the Diné; and

7. Tsoodzil is the holy mountain of the South and, together with 12 other mountains, peaks and physical features of the land, form the boundaries of the sacred Diné homeland; and

8. Tsoodzil is religiously and culturally significant to the Diné and other Indigenous People, including the people of the Pueblo of Acoma, because it contains:

   i. homes of the Holy People;
   ii. places that are significant in the histories and cultural practices of the Diné people;
   iii. places for conducting sacred ceremonies and prayers;
iv. places for gathering medicines, minerals and other materials for ceremonial and
   traditional uses, including turquoise, from which the mountain gains its name; and
v. locations with traditional stories attached to the land; and

9. *Tsoodzil* is the location where, according to the traditional stories, the Monster Slayer
   Twins, born to Changing Woman, slew one of the four monsters that plagued the People,
   and that the body and blood of the monster, *Yé'ii tsóh*, are said to be the mountain and the
   lava flows to its south, respectively; and

10. The Navajo People and medicine people have not relinquished traditional spiritual ties to
    *Tsoodzil* and have inherited the historical knowledge, sacred religious beliefs, oral
    histories, and traditional use of *Tsoodzil* that predate Western Civilizations’ arrival on
    the North American continent; and

11. At least a dozen companies have applied for and/or obtained state and Federal permits to
    explore for and mine uranium on locations on and near *Tsoodzil* from the New Mexico
    Mining and Minerals Division (“NMMD”), New Mexico Environment Department
    (“NMED”), State Land Office (“NMSLO”), U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”), U.S. Bureau
    of Land Management (“USBLM”), and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
    (“USNRC”); and

12. Such proposed uranium development will degrade the natural resources, traditional
    cultural uses and inherent spirituality of *Tsoodzil* for both the Navajo and Acoma people;
    and

13. On December 12, 2006, Lupton Chapter of the Navajo Nation adopted a resolution
    opposing new uranium mining in Navajo Indian Country and recommending that steps be
    taken to protect *Tsoodzil* from such mining; and

14. On March 3, 2007, the Eastern Navajo Agency Council adopted Resolution that read
    “Opposing uranium mining in and around *Tsoodzil*, and recommending consultation with
    the affected Native American tribes and communities before new uranium exploration,
    mining and processing further degrades *Tsoodzil*”; and

15. On December 13, 2006, the Pueblo of Acoma Tribal Council adopted Resolution No. TC-
    NOV-22-06-Vb, that notes that Mt. Taylor lies within the Acoma Cultural Province, and
    that any and all activities such as uranium development “will impair... access to its
    traditional cultural activities... or sacred sites or cultural properties affiliated with the
    Acoma Cultural Province”; and

16. On December 15, 2006, the All Indian Pueblo Council of New Mexico adopted
    Resolution No. 2006-19 that notes that “the issuance of uranium and coal exploration,
    development and processing permits within the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna’s cultural
    territory threatens irreparable degradation and impairment to the natural and cultural
    resources of the Pueblos...”; and
17. As noted in the resolutions of the Pueblo of Acoma and All Indian Pueblo Council, various Federal laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act and the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, that are intended to protect Native American cultural and sacred sites and burial grounds, mandate government-to-government consultations with tribes on activities that may affect such sacred sites; and

18. Furthermore, Presidential Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes," directs federal agencies "to establish a process which facilitates meaningful participation throughout the regulatory policymaking process"; and

19. In addition, permitting and/or approval of uranium exploration, mining and milling permits by the Federal agencies may be in violation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 with regard to disrupting the spiritual, cultural and daily connections to Mt. Taylor; and

20. To the knowledge of the Diné Hataalii Association, such consultation and processes to facilitate meaningful participation have not been conducted or offered by the Federal agencies that are processing uranium mining permits in the Mt. Taylor area; and

21. To the knowledge of the Diné Hataalii Association, the state of New Mexico agencies that are processing such permits have not consulted with the affected tribes in contravention of Governor Richardson’s Executive Order 2005-03 (dated February 1, 2005) establishing a “statewide tribal consultation policy on the protection of sacred places and repatriation.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Diné Hataalii Association opposes uranium exploration, mining and processing in and around Tsoodzil (Mt. Taylor).

2. The Diné Hataalii Association requests consultation with Federal agencies and the state of New Mexico, pursuant to applicable laws, regulations and policies, before any new uranium development permits or licenses are issued.

3. The Diné Hataalii Association supports funding for and implementation of plans and programs that will address cleanup of abandoned uranium mines in the Eastern Navajo Agency and studies of the health of residents of communities affected by past uranium mining.
CERTIFICATION

We, the Diné Hataalii Association, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by its general membership at a duly called meeting at the Navajo Education Center in Window Rock, (Navajo Nation) Az, at which a quorum was present and that same was adopted by a vote of ___ in FAVOR, ___ OPPOSED, and ___ ABSTAINED, on this 14th day of April 2007.

MOTIONED BY: Thompson Dilly
SECONDED BY: Herman A. Still

[Signature] President