



AN OPEN INVITATION TO PEOPLES OF THE WORLD TO THE INDIGENOUS WORLD URANIUM SUMMIT

SEPTEMBER 23, 2006

Yá'át'ééh! I am writing to you to extend an open invitation to Native Peoples of the World, and to all who work to support the rights and well-being of Native People, to attend an historic event — *The Indigenous World Uranium Summit and Nuclear Free Future Awards Ceremony* — to be held here in our Navajo Nation capital of Window Rock, Arizona, from November 30 through December 2, 2006.

As a sovereign government, and with respect to our government-to-government relationship with other nations, the Navajo Nation is honored to co-sponsor this event with grassroots and non-governmental organizations. These organizations have worked hard to bring justice to Native peoples who have suffered at the hands of the uranium industry. Everyday, the Navajo Nation loses more of our elders and medicine people who were uranium workers to cancers, respiratory illnesses and other diseases resulting from radiation and uranium exposure. With them, our Nation loses their knowledge, wisdom, songs, stories and ceremonies needed to keep our culture strong.

Everyday, radiation exposure compensation is denied to the survivors of these brave men and women and to the victims and families of above ground nuclear blasts. Everyday, our scientists work with community members to investigate the effects of uranium mining on our lands, waters and the health of the Navajo people. Still, we have few answers about the causes of the mysterious illnesses that were not seen before uranium mining began in the 1940s.

In April 2005, the Navajo Nation passed the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act. This law prohibits uranium mining and processing on Navajoland. I then sought and received wide support for our law from several members of the U.S. Congress. I went to Oslo, Norway, to accept the 2005 Nuclear Free Future Special Recognition Award on behalf of the Navajo Nation. In November, I issued an Executive Order requiring my staff to tell industry the Navajo Nation is not open for uranium mining. And earlier this year, my administration sent letters to three multinational corporations that seek permits for uranium mining in Navajo communities that the Navajo Nation intends to enforce vigorously its uranium ban.

Your participation at the Indigenous World Uranium Summit will send a message to the nuclear industry that Indigenous Peoples will resist uranium development on their land.

Please join me in Window Rock, Navajo Nation, U.S.A., on November 30, 2006, for the start of a new era in resource development — the END of uranium mining on Native Lands Worldwide! *Abe'hee!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr.", is written over a printed name and title.

Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., President
THE NAVAJO NATION