

**Opening Statement Rep. Grace F. Napolitano  
May 24, 2011**

**Hopi Ancestors left these instructions about their sacred homeland:**

*“Underneath your feet lies enormous wealth. Guard it. Do not fall asleep for if you do, it will be pulled out. Do not use it until the right time to do it, in the right way, and only use it for the right purposes.”*

**The words of the Hopi Elders are as relevant today as they were hundreds of years ago. The tribal homelands of the Navajo and Hopi tribes have many natural resources, including coal; abundant sunshine and excellent groundwater.**

**The Black Mesa on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations is home to the Kayenta Mine. This mine provides 8.1 million tons of coal to power the Navajo Generating Station annually.**

**Power produced at the Navajo Generating Station moves 1.6 million acre-feet of Central Arizona Project water through 300 miles of aqueducts and lifting the water on average 3,000 vertical feet. This provides many Arizonans with affordable (should we say cheap?) water from the Colorado River.**

**In the process of mining this coal, precious groundwater is contaminated and sacred sites were destroyed. What Peabody Energy, the largest Coal Company in the world pays the tribes in royalties, roughly \$14 million annually, pales in comparison to the \$7 billion dollar revenue the company makes each year.**

**The tribes face a paradox: the coal comes from the reservation, the plant is located on tribal land. YET there are tribal communities surrounding the generating station and the mine that have no access to running water and no electricity in their homes. The tribes that do have access to electricity pay at market rates greater than the 3 cents a kilowatt/hour the NGS station produces at cost to its owners.**

**The Navajo and the Hopi Tribes do not own any part of the NGS.**

**Today's hearing talks is entitled "Protecting Long-Term Tribal Energy Jobs and keeping Arizona Water Costs Affordable, the Current and Future Role of the Navajo Generating Station.**

**In order to look at keeping Water and Power Costs affordable, we should ask ourselves a fundamental question: how do we provide water and power to all Arizonans, which includes tribes and their non-tribal neighbors?**

**Four years ago, we asked children from the Navajo Nation to draw where they thought their water came from.**

**Children drew trucks with 100 gallon water jugs in the truck bed.**

**A majority of the Navajo communities have to use watering stations because there's no access to water in their homes.**

**Here we are in 2011- and we are faced with the same situation where some communities in the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe have no access to clean water- and worse, communities with limited or no access to electricity.**

**Do we really want our children to grow up thinking that their water comes from water trucks and their power from lanterns and candle light?**

**The NGS is no doubt a complex issue involving the power supply for water deliveries. It impacts tribal communities, cities, and the future of Arizona Water.**

**People would like to boil down this complex issue to the simple , and false, claim that EPA regulations threaten to shut down the Navajo Generating Station- and jeopardizing our tribal economies. This is not a cut and dry case.**

**What we do have is an opportunity to support the ongoing discussions among stakeholders to find short term solutions that allow for water and power to continue to be delivered.**

**At the same time, we must look at options for transitioning to clean energy in the future, and providing our tribal communities with the chance to develop all the resources available to them.**

**We should work to provide equity to the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. Their resources must be valued and the value of their resources must be reflected in what is paid in royalties. We must provide affordable water for ALL Arizonans.**

**Thank you for our witnesses for traveling today. We especially welcome President Shelley, Hopi Chairman Shingoitewa, and Gila River Indian Community Lt. Governor Manuel. WE look forward to hearing your testimony.**