

Department of Interior Leads Discussions on Future Options for Navajo Generating Station

Leaders of the Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Reclamation recently hosted a meeting with multiple stakeholders to discuss the future of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS), a coal-fired electric powerplant located near Page, AZ, on the Navajo Nation.

Last month, NGS owners agreed to pursue extending operations through 2019 and commence decommissioning activities if an alternative plan for NGS operations cannot be identified. This meeting was a first step in working to identify all stakeholder interests.

Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior, James E. Cason, led the discussion with NGS stakeholders at Interior headquarters and issued the following statement at the conclusion of the talks:

“[The] session gave each stakeholder with an interest in the

current and future operation of the Navajo Generating Station an opportunity to review the multiple economic realities facing NGS through 2019 and – potentially – beyond. This economic review is only one piece of the challenges we face. The economies of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and the State of Arizona are clearly tied to NGS operations.

“For Interior, we are mindful of our Indian Trust relationships to the Navajo and Hopi people and the hundreds of well-paying Navajo and Hopi jobs at NGS and the Kayenta Mine. Interior will continue to facilitate these ongoing discussions. The next important step is for the Navajo Nation and Salt River Project to conclude discussions on a lease extension or amendment that will allow operations to continue through December 2019. In addition, a number of other entities associated with NGS will be discussing options for post-2019 operation.” ♣

Department of Defense Presents Employee Patriot Award and Employer Statement of Support to Agua Caliente Casino Resorts



L-R: Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa General Manager Kato Moy; Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Volunteer Greg Peck; Chief Operating Officer C.J. Graham, Vice President of Human Resources Robin Stone, Daniel Hartzler, Robert Harper, and Chief Financial Officer Frank Charolla all of Agua Caliente Casino Resorts.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an Office of the Department of Defense, presented both a Patriot Award and a certificate of Employer Statement of Support on January 31, 2017 at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage.

Colonel (Ret.) Greg Peck on behalf of the ESGR presented the Patriot Award to Daniel Hartzler, Operations Accounting Manager for Agua Caliente Casino Resorts. Hartzler was nominated for this honor by his direct report, Robert Harper, who is a Revenue Audit Supervisor with the casinos and also serves as an SSG, Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Hartzler was nominated to receive the Patriot Award for his dedication and cooperation during Harper’s deployment, and for working around his reserve obligations with flexibility and understanding.

The Patriot Award presentation was immediately followed by the presentation of a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve certificate to Agua Caliente Casino Resorts. The statement was accepted and signed by Chief Operating Officer C.J. Graham.

“We are honored to support the efforts of the ESGR and our team members who serve in our Nation’s Guard and Reserve,” Graham said, “with sincere appreciation for the role we as an employer are able play in helping maintain their strength and readiness.”

“With fifty-one percent of our military now serving in the guard and reserve, employer support is critical,” Peck said. The Statement of Support Program is the cornerstone of ESGR’s effort to gain and maintain employer support for the Guard and Reserve.

The first Statement of Support was signed December 13, 1972, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense by the Chairman of the Board of General Motors. President Richard Nixon was the first President to sign a Statement of Support, and in 2005 every Federal Cabinet Secretary and all Federal agencies signed a Statement of Support to signify their continuing efforts to be model employers. Since its inception, hundreds of thousands of employers have signed Statements of Support, pledging their support to Guard and Reserve employees.