Navajo Generating Station(NGS) Closure & Transition

Karilee Ramaley
Senior Principal Attorney
Salt River Project

Presented at the Just Transition webinar hosted by the AmpUp program

June 22, 2022

The AmpUp program is funded by the USAID Bureau of Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI). AmpUp is comprised of : Arizona State University, MK Advisors, NRECA International, Segura Consulting and the United States Energy Association (USEA). Learn more about AmpUp here

SRP Overview

- Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (The Association)
 - Formed in 1903
 - 1300 mi. canals, 270 wells, 2 underground storage projects
- Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement District (The District)
 - Formed in 1937
 - Serves about 1 Million power customers in Phoenix area



Navajo Generation Station (NGS) Overview

- 1969: Construction began
- Commencement of Operation
 - First Unit began commercial operation in 1975
 - Largest coal plant west of the Mississippi 2,250 MW
 - Fueled by low sulfur bituminous coal
- Nearly 500 full-time employees, more than 90% Navajo
- Participants:
 - US Bureau of Reclamation
 - Salt River Project
 - Arizona Public Service
 - Tucson Electric Power
 - NV Energy
 - LADWP (LA Dept of Water & Power)



NGS Closure - Why

- Cost of Operations
 - Natural gas prices made coal uncompetitive
- Cleaner Alternatives
- Lease Termination
 - Originally planned to close mid-2017 to comply with lease
 - New lease allowed plant to continue operation through Dec. 22, 2019



NGS Participants Transition Support – Navajo Nation

Key elements:

- Operation extension/glide path
- Annual lease payments
- Coal royalties assurance
- Assets retained by Navajo Nation
 - One building now used for a prefab homebuilding company
- Transmission access to support renewable energy growth
- Navajo hiring preference; workforce development



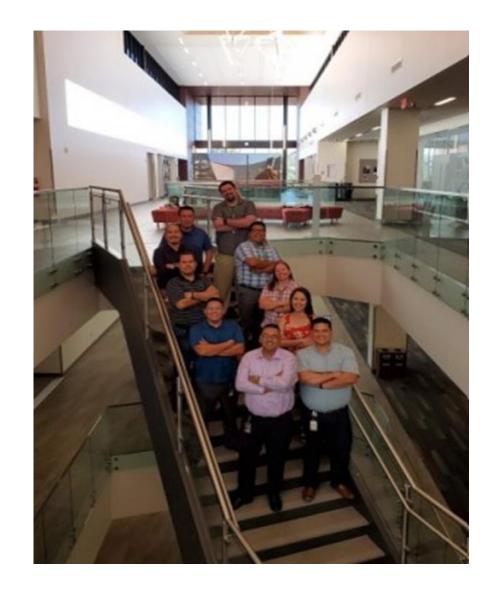
SRP Additional Transition Support – Navajo Nation

- Jobs and retraining for employees
- In-kind services Energy planning and economic development assistance
- Support for Navajo Nation Energy & Natural Resources Economic Development Roadmap
- Navajo/Page/Coconino/University Economic Development Sponsorships
- Renewable energy projects
- Light Up Navajo



Jobs and Retraining

- Find jobs for every NGS employee at other SRP facilities
- 300 NGS employees retrained and redeployed
 - Collaboration strategy for workforce development in Page/Le Chee area near NGS
 - Northern Arizona Regional Re-Employment Center
- Created optional Apprenti Program
 - Retrained workers for technology field
 - Permanent position in technology field after apprenticeship



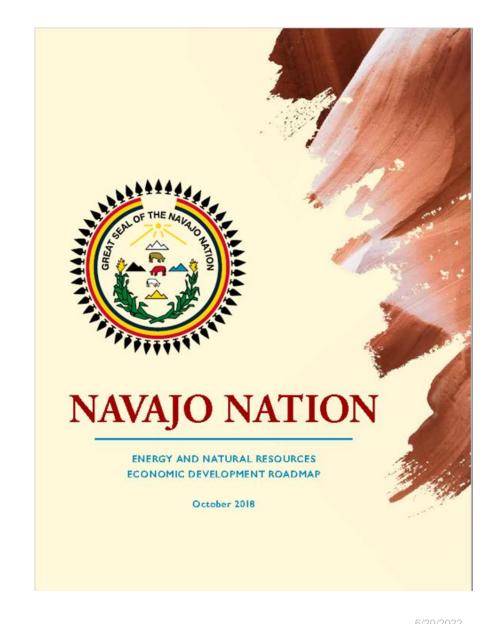
Economic Development

- SRP continues to support economic development
- Offering sponsorships, expertise and other assistance to:
 - Navajo Nation Economic Development Department and Division of Natural Resources
 - Northern Arizona University
 - Coconino County
 - Page



Energy Roadmap

- Created Energy & Resource Economic Development Roadmap
- Technical facilitator to determine options available for energy and natural resources economic development
 - Helium well drilling/production
 - Renewable energy development
 - Wireless telecommunications expansion
 - Solid waste landfill development
 - Environmental remediation
 - Sand & gravel mining/production



Education & Scholarship Support

- Resource to Navajo Nation and Page/Le Chee area by assisting with education opportunities
- \$75,000 grant to NAU supporting Tribal
 Environmental Education Outreach Program
- \$32,000 in scholarships to Navajo Technical University (NTU)
- Sponsored several Coconino Community
 College programs to train local workforce for high demand local jobs
 - Apartment Maintenance Certification Program
 - Pre-Health Program



Renewable Energy Projects

- Purchased power agreement with Navajo
 Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) for Kayenta I and Kayenta II solar projects
- MOU with NTUA
 - Development of additional renewable energy projects on Navajo Nation
- RFP for up to 400MW of solar power
 - Seeking to site 200MW on Navajo Nation



Light Up Navajo Project Support

- Participation in Light Up Navajo
 - Pilot program coordinated by NTUA and American Public Power Association
 - Provided two crews to help install distribution electric lines
- Initial effort lasted from end of April to mid-May 2019
- Continue to support annual program with Light Up Navajo
 - In early 2022, SRP line workers again spent several weeks on the Navajo Nation working to connect homes to electricity



Page Transition Assistance

- Created stakeholder group
- Funded Housing Study quantifying need for housing for various socio-economic levels
- Provided technical expertise to create electronic library of available real estate and accompanying assets



Page Transition Assistance

- Developed strategic housing and planning initiative
 - Zoning audit
 - Land use map amendments
 - Design guidelines
 - Target industry analysis
 - New website highlighting City's longrange planning initiatives
- Created public art memorializing role of NGS in the city history



Lessons Learned from NGS

- Start as Early as Possible
- Impacted Community has to Lead
- Each Community is Different
- First step Economic Impact Study
- Create Stakeholder Group
- Learn/Understand Community
- Small Things Can Make a Difference
- Focus on Direct Link to Economy
- Create Plan for Phasing out Corporate Giving
- Over Communicate Internally & Externally



thank you!