

ORIGINAL

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**Kelly Johnson**

**From:** Scott Northrup <Scott@ibew1116.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** RBurns-Web; Tobin-Web; Forese-Web; Dunn-Web;  
**Cc:** IP\_LonnieStephenson; Speer, Steve; Hunter, James L.  
**Subject:** Navajo Generating Station  
**Attachments:** Letter to ACC - NGS.pdf



Chairman Forese and Commissioners Burns, Little, Dunn, Tobin,

Good morning, my name is Scott Northrup the Business Manager of IBEW Local 1116 and I have attached a letter to encourage the Corporation Commission to seriously look into the impact of the closing Navajo Generating Station.

Thank you,

Scott Northrup  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary  
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Arizona Corporation Commission

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**FEB 16 2017**

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# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION 1116

PHONE (520) 792-1475 • FAX (520) 882-6132

4601 S. BUTTERFIELD DR.

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85714

February 7, 2017

Chairman Tom Forese  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Commissioner Doug Little  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Commissioner Boyd Dunn  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Commissioner Andy Tobin  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Commissioner Bob Burns  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 W. Washington - 2nd Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Chairman Forese, Commissioner Little, Commissioner Dunn, Commissioner Tobin, Commissioner Burns:

I write to express my significant concern regarding the potential closure of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) in the Navajo Nation in Arizona. The premature closure of this critical utility plant at the end of 2019 would cause irreparable harm to thousands of Navajo and Hopi people, including more than 380 highly trained, skilled employees represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) along with more than 300 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) who work at the Kayenta mine, which provides the coal that is used to power NGS.

The jobs at the NGS and the Kayenta mine are quite simply the best jobs that are available for the Navajo and Hopi people. The wages the workers earn ripple through the economy, providing jobs elsewhere in their Nations. Indeed, a recent Arizona State University study found that the income derived from jobs at the Kayenta mine and the NGS will put \$5.9 billion into the regional economy between 2020 and 2044, which is the expected lifetime of the NGS. As President Trump moves to create "good paying" jobs for the middle class blue collar workers, eliminating these jobs would be contrary to his promise to help the hard-working families in the United States of America. The closure of these facilities would literally turn the city of Page, AZ into a ghost town.

**AMERICA WORKS BEST WHEN WE SAY,**



Chairman Forese  
Commissioner Little  
Commissioner Dunn  
Commissioner Tobin  
Commissioner Burns Page

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February 7, 2017

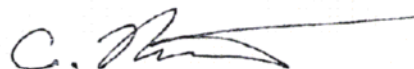
The taxes they pay, coupled with the taxes paid by their employers, help to provide critical public services for their people who work for the Navajo Nation as teachers, maintenance workers, public safety officers and more. The closure of this plant and the corresponding impact on the Nation's finances will be devastating to all of them and their families.

The NGS provides critical power to keep the Central Arizona Project (CAP) operating, delivering water to the tribes and to commercial customers throughout the state. That need will continue well past 2019, and it does not appear that there is any current alternative to the NGS that will provide the reliable, efficient, low-cost power that is needed to make CAP economically viable for the long term.

Salt River Project and the other owners, which includes Tucson Electric Power and Arizona Public Service, who want to shut the NGS down seem to be pinning their hopes on natural gas. However, gas is already rising in cost after a brief time at historically and unnaturally low cost levels. Estimates from the Energy Information Agency and others are that gas prices will continue to rise for many years to come. The NGS is already one of the most efficient and lowest-emissions plants in the United States, and it can for decades remain competitive with any other power plant powered by any other fuel source.

I urge you to use your good offices to intervene in the destruction of the jobs associated with the NGS and the Kayenta mine. This action makes no economic sense for the owners of the NGS or for the Navajo and Hopi people. They spent their entire working lives providing the fuel and the power that has made a huge difference for every Arizonan. They should be able to continue to do that, and by so doing create more prosperous communities for their Nations.

Sincerely,



Scott Northrup,  
B.M./F.S. LU 1116

cc: Lonnie Stephenson, I.P., IBEW  
Steve Speer, V.P., 7<sup>th</sup> V.P. District, IBEW  
James Hunter, Utility Director, IBEW