



NAVAJO NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
P.O. Box 339, Window Rock, Navajo Nation, (AZ) 86515
Tel. (928) 871-7692 · Fax. (928) 871-7996



Joe Shirley, Jr.
PRESIDENT

SEP 13 2005

Frank Dayish, Jr.
VICE-PRESIDENT

Press Release:

**Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Issues
Permits to Water Systems Owners and Operators**

The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency's (NNEPA) Public Water Systems Supervision Program (PWSSP) has issued 81 operating permits, pursuant to the Navajo Nation Primary Drinking Water Regulation. This is the first round of permits issued under Navajo Nation authority since the 2000 primacy approval from USEPA. PWSSP regulates public water systems owned and operated by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Navajo Department of Water Resources, state public schools, missions, businesses, chapters, coal companies and other entities not specifically mentioned who own and operate a public water system.

According to federal and tribal legislations, a public water system may include a well or wells, a storage tank (s) and a system of pipes that deliver clean and safe drinking water to fifteen or more service connections. A system must serve twenty-five persons or more and it has to meet operation of sixty or more days in a single year.

Section 109 of the Navajo Nation Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NNPDWR) addresses permitting of all public water systems that include bottled water businesses. The operation of a public water system requires a permit application that has to meet various requirements including the certification of the operator. Upon review and successful approval, an operation permit is valid for a period of three years.

"The Public Water Systems Supervision Program (PWSSP) conduct periodic inspections and offer compliance assistance to public water system clients. This new permitting process ensures that all Navajo Nation public water systems are operated safely, and that Navajo communities have safe drinking water." Said Mr. Stephen B. Etsitty, Executive Director of NNEPA.

Information on the Navajo Nation's public water systems as well as permitting questions can be directed to the Public Water Systems and Supervision Program staff at 928-871-7755. The Navajo nation Primary Drinking Water Regulations can be downloaded at www.navajopublicwater.org.