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March 19, 2026

Po-Chieh Ting
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Air and Radiation Division
Air Permits Section
R9airpermits@epa.gov

Re: Support for the NEGP Draft Minor Source NSR Permit (EPA-R09-OAR-2024-0028)

Greetings,

I am writing to express support for the Tribal Minor New Source Review Permit (the Permit) for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC (NTEC) Energy Generation Plant, LLC (NEGP) proposed, and public noticed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (EPA) on March 19, 2026. (EPA-R09-OAR-2024-0028).

As Chair of the San Juan County Commission, I represent a community with a long history rooted in responsible energy development and a deep commitment to economic resilience in northwest New Mexico. San Juan County's mission is to support sustainable growth, protect critical infrastructure, and ensure that our residents have access to reliable, affordable energy and quality employment opportunities. Our region has powered the Southwest for generations, and we have a strong interest in projects like NEGP that build on that legacy while positioning us for the future. As a result, I write in support of the NEGP energy project and strongly support the EPA issuing a final Permit to NTEC. NEGP will be located on the reservation of the Navajo Nation and owned and operated by NTEC, a Navajo Nation-owned entity. As explained below, the NEGP project represents a critical opportunity to strengthen regional energy security, create high-quality jobs, focus on energy prices, and responsibly utilize the extensive existing energy infrastructure in the Four Corners region that has for generations powered the American Southwest.

Energy security is a growing concern across the country with projected historic demand growth created by continued population growth, and the deployment and growth of data centers and artificial intelligence. This projected demand growth is extremely high in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Utah, and California. Extreme weather events—both heat and cold—have underscored the importance of reliable, energy sources that can respond when intermittent resources are unavailable. NEGP will enhance regional energy security by providing dependable generation capacity for local communities, but also in a strategically important location for the rest of the country. The Four Corners region has long served as a major energy corridor, with established transmission networks connecting power across the American Southwest and

California. By situating NEGP within this existing framework, the NEGP project strengthens grid resilience locally and across multiple states. From the perspective of local communities, energy security is about reliability during peak demand, maintaining service to hospitals and schools, and preventing blackouts during extremes. Projects like NEGP provide firm capacity that complements other energy sources and ensures that the energy grid can meet demand when it matters most to people's lives.

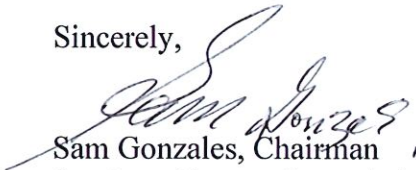
In addition to reliability concerns, there are growing worries that this historic increase in projected energy demand will raise industrial and residential energy prices beyond what local business and community members can withstand during a time of great concern regarding affordability. Affordable power is essential for economic competitiveness, particularly in rural and economically constrained regions, like the Four Corners. NEGP has the potential to contribute to price stability by increasing reliable supply and reducing reliance on imported energy during periods of high demand.

One of the most compelling aspects of NEGP is its strategic use of existing energy infrastructure in the Four Corners region. Few areas in the country are as well-positioned to support large-scale energy projects. The region has long-standing rights-of-way, interconnections, and road access, where applicable, and a workforce deeply experienced in power generation. By building within this established energy corridor, NEGP minimizes environmental disturbance compared to greenfield energy development in previously undeveloped areas. Moreover, this approach reflects a responsible energy transition strategy—one that acknowledges the historical role of energy production in our communities and seeks to build upon that foundation rather than dismantle it abruptly.

NTEC's plan for sustainable progress reflects energy-focused continuity, workforce opportunities, and economic stability and NEGP embodies this balanced approach. Notably, construction of NEGP will generate direct jobs, with additional indirect employment across supply chains, service industries, and local small businesses, particularly during construction. In rural communities where employment opportunities can be limited and economic volatility can have outsized impacts on families' lives, the long-term stability offered by energy infrastructure projects is invaluable. In addition to direct employment, the project will contribute to local tax bases and other revenue streams that support schools, emergency services, road maintenance, and public health programs. In the Four Corners area, energy-related revenues are foundational to delivering essential services and quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in strong support of NEGP and the EPA taking final action to issue the Permit to NTEC. Please contact me at sam.gonzales@sjcounty.net or leave a message at (505) 334-4271 if I can provide any additional information in support of the NEGP draft Permit.

Sincerely,



Sam Gonzales, Chairman
San Juan County Commission