



# THE NAVAJO NATION

DR. BUU NYGREN | PRESIDENT    RICHELLE MONTOYA | VICE PRESIDENT

NAVAJO NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SUPERFUND PROGRAM    P.O. BOX 2946  
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March 23, 2023

Rebekah Reynolds, Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA Region 9  
Office of Regional Counsel (ORC-3)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**RE: Navajo Tribal Sawmill Enterprise Site. Request for Federal Assistance.**

Dear Rebekah:

This letter requests the assistance of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 ("USEPA") in addressing contamination at the Navajo Tribal Sawmill Enterprise ("NTSE") facility located in the town of Sawmill, within Apache County, Arizona, within the Navajo Nation.

We are writing to request that USEPA implement activities to address the release and threatened release of hazardous substances, including but not limited to asbestos containing materials, at NTSE.

The Navajo Nation recognizes that with respect to these requested removal actions, USEPA, or any other federal agency acting in conjunction with or on behalf of USEPA, may use its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq., the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan ("NCP"), 40 C.F.R. Part 300, or any other federal statute, regulation or response program, to respond to and recover costs incurred in response to releases or threats of releases of pollutants and contaminants as deemed necessary in EPA's sole discretion to abate an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or welfare or the environment at the locations stated above. By making this request, the Navajo Nation acknowledges that notice pursuant to Section 128 (b)(1)(D) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9628(b)(1)(D), is not applicable with respect to these removal actions.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Stephen Etsitty, Executive Director  
Navajo Nation EPA

cc:     Warren J. Roan, NNEPA  
        Patricia Maples, NNEPA