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NEWS RELEASE

NTEC and Mine Operator BHP Win Top Award for Reclamation Project at Navajo Mine

FARMINGTON, N.M.
– Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) and its mine operator BHP Billiton Mine Management Company have been selected to receive the Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's 2016 Western Regional Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award for work on the Chinde Reclamation Project, according to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.



Navajo Mine environmental engineers used fluvial geomorphic principles to replace an inefficient diversion channel with a naturally functioning stream channel and stable landform. Using this method, Navajo Mine reclamation crews have created a landscape that is self-sustaining, able to withstand erosion and that provides natural wildlife habitat.

“We are very excited and pleased to be recognized for the work that our mining contractor has performed these passed years. Congratulations to the team members who worked tirelessly to ensure Navajo land is reclaimed not only according to the standards set by OSRME, but ensuring that future generations of Navajo people can enjoy the land much like their ancestors have,” said Clark Moseley, NTEC CEO. Nearly 75 percent of the employees at the mine are Native American with many being members of the Navajo Nation and have a stake in the mine’s success.

“Federal regulations and standards mandate that we put the disturbed land back in a way that can sustain grazing, but we have taken it a step further,” said BHP Billiton Acting Asset President Shawn Goeckner. “What our engineers, technicians and workforce have accomplished has, in many ways, restored the landscape better than it was before the mine was here. We take land stewardship very seriously and the Chinde Project is a prime example of that.”

The Chinde Project, located toward the northern half of Navajo Mine, was conceived to update and redesign a reclamation project that had been completed in the 1970s, but was showing signs of degradation and erosion.

The project redesign, using fluvial geomorphic principles developed locally by mine environmental engineers, replaced an inefficient diversion channel with a naturally functioning stream channel and stable landform. Using this method, reclamation crews at Navajo Mine have created a landscape that is self-sustaining, able to withstand erosion and that provides natural wildlife habitat.

The award is scheduled to be handed out during an awards luncheon on Sept. 28, 2016 in Las Vegas at MINExpo® the National Mining Association’s annual conference.

Navajo Mine is owned by the Navajo Transitional Energy Company. NTEC is 100 percent owned by the Navajo Nation. BHP Billiton Mine Management Company is the current contract operator.

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About NTEC

NTEC is a single member limited liability company organized under the laws of the Navajo Nation that owns Navajo Mine, located south of Fruitland, New Mexico. The mission of NTEC is to be a reliable, safe producer of coal, while diversifying the Navajo Nation’s energy resources to create economic sustainability for the Nation and the Navajo people. NTEC is 100 percent owned by the Navajo Nation. For more information about NTEC, visit www.navajo-tec.com.

About BHP Billiton

BHP Billiton is a leading global resources company in which sustainable development is a key priority. We are committed to health, safety, the environment and the communities in which we operate. Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on its website: www.bhpbilliton.com.