

LiDonnavi Rayne Nelson Whitney, Chinle, AZ.

To whom it may concern,

I, LiDonnavi Rayne Nelson Whitney, am a registered voter of the Black Mesa Chapter. I have some comments about the efforts to bring a project of this magnitude to the Black Mesa community and surrounding areas. I will be brief with this statement.

I am concerned about the water level impact that the Second Mesa area may endure according to the decreased amount of water signified in the study conducted by the U.S. DOI's U.S. Geological Survey published on Oct. 17, 2022. Furthermore, the recent census on the Navajo Nation has considerably more members and the growing number of non-native inhabitants mean more dependency on the aquifer. Therefore, water levels need to be monitored to maintain good relations between the Navajo and Hopi tribes who share the Black Mesa aquifer's contents.

I would like to recommend that the roads are maintained for the local employees to have reliable transportation to and from work within a feasible area. The Navajo Department of Transportation has been overwhelmed by the entire reservation's requests for assistance due to inclement weather, so this may need to be privately undertaken.

Another recommendation is that the hydrogen production process be equipped to the generators as an option for the responsible entity and partners to explore at a future time. The Navajo Nation's Oil and Gas Co. has created a methane to hydrogen production, but it would be great to see a green hydrogen production process.

There is potential funding available with the DOE's Office of Indian Energy that would be helpful for the project. Working with council delegates from the Navajo Nation and Hopi tribal representatives could alleviate the process.

Please have workers undergo cultural sensitivity training for the Navajo and/or Hopi cultures in the area. New individuals to the area may experience a culture shock and this could help their transition. And have interpreters available for the project's announcements in written, electronic, and radio form.

Thank you for your time,

LiDonnavi R. N. Whitney

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