



**RESOLUTION OF  
BLACK MESA UNITED–DZILÍJIN BEE' AHÓTA', INCORPORATED**

BMU–DzBA 11-13-25-037

**Opposing the Nature and People First Kayenta Pumped Storage HydroPower (Kayenta PSH) Project and its Land Withdrawal**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the Navajo Nation Corporation Code, Black Mesa United Dzilíjín Bée Ahótá Incorporated (BMU-DzBA) is granted authority to transact business on the Navajo Nation (NN), and;
2. Pursuant to the Arizona Corporation Commission, BMU-DzBA is approved as a tax-exempt Arizona Non-Profit Corporation that is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(1)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and;
3. Pursuant to BMU-DzBA's Articles of Incorporation, the purpose of the organization is to serve as the primary resource for Navajos living within the Peabody Western Coal Company (PWCC) leasehold area who may have been adversely affected by coal mining operations, and;
4. BMU-DzBA passed a resolution on February 8, 2024 (BMU–DzBA 02-08-24-035) Opposing the Nature and People First Arizona's Proposed Black Mesa Pumped Hydroelectric Storage (PSH) Projects North, East, and South by Nature and People First Arizona, and;
5. Despite this opposition, some Navajo chapters and leaders are now asking for a land withdrawal for land on the Black Mesa Rim for the purposes of a PSH project, which we are in opposition to on behalf of the people and all species, and;
6. Nature and People First Arizona proposes to construct the Kayenta PSH Project with two 200- to 300-acre reservoirs with a capacity of 10,000 acre-feet (AF), and;
7. PSH is an energy storage technology that utilizes water in a closed loop to produce night time electricity and provide water to the community, and;
8. Reservoirs would be developed at the top and bottom of the mesa, generating electricity with the water flowing from top to bottom using gravity during the night and water pumped back up during the day, and;
9. Water would be released from the upper reservoirs and fall 2,000 feet through a tunnel and finally through turbines to generate electricity before the water would reach the lower reservoirs, and;
10. It will take two years to fill the reservoirs at a rate of 5,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), and;
11. A tunnel will be bored into the mesa to install a cave that holds the motor, generator, pump, turbines and a penstock, and connecting the two resources on top and bottom of the mesa, and;
12. After the initial fill is complete in 2 years, the PSH project will require pumping of an additional 2,500 AF water to compensate for evaporation and keep the reservoirs filled, and;
13. The project developer is proposing to install solar panels to limit evaporation, and;

14. Kayenta PSH Project would initially use water from the Coconino Aquifer and not the Navajo Aquifer and would invest funds to pump the deep water and treat the water to remove excessive salts that are present in the water, and;
15. Significant new infrastructure is planned, including new powerhouses, tunnels, and new transmission lines, and;
16. While Nature and People First may have negotiated with the Chilchinbeto and Kayenta chapters, the impacts of the PSH and aquifer withdrawals will have wide-ranging impacts to all the communities on Black Mesa, and;
17. The Black Mesa Northern Rim is an untouched and pristine natural refuge on Black Mesa and the construction of a massive project will significantly damage this refuge, and;
18. The development of a PSH will require intense buildout of roads, transmission lines, and traffic that would significantly impact the pristine land, vegetation and wildlife, and;
19. The residents of Black Mesa have already been negatively impacted by Peabody Western Coal Company and its mining practices through negative environmental and health impacts, with no benefits left for the community, and the land is still healing from coal mining, and;
20. The Kayenta PSH will continue the legacy of environmental injustice at the expense of the Black Mesa communities, and;
21. Black Mesa has already sacrificed so much for the Navajo Nation to meet the larger energy demands of the Southwest, and we refuse to have our land desecrated once again, and;
22. In addition to grazing permittees, other land users like farmers, traditional herbalists, and residents also have a right to have a say in the Kayenta PSH and the decision should not lie solely on the grazing permittees, the Kayenta and Chilchinbeto chapters, and Navajo Nation elected officials, and;
23. The Black Mesa Land-Use Plan of 2025 states that we want to preserve Black Mesa's land, water, and plants for future generations and hence oppose the Kayenta PSH Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. **Nature and People First is a foreign entity that does not understand the deep connection of Black Mesa residents to their land.**
2. **We are formally requesting that the Navajo Nation, Federal Regulatory Commission, Kayenta Chapter, Forest Lake Chapter, and Shonto Chapter deny approval of this project and its associated land withdrawal.**

**CERTIFICATION**

**We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was discussed at a duly called meeting of the Black Mesa United-Dzilijiin Bee' Ahóta', at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 20 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025.**

**Motion:** Joanna Austin-Manygoats

**Second:** Marie Benally-Johson

Signature: