

Begaye called for EPA to testify on Gold King Mine

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.— Navajo President Russell Begaye applauded Senator John McCain’s call for the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to issue a subpoena to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy to appear at the Committee’s upcoming field hearing in Phoenix, Arizona.

“The Gold King Mine spill culturally and economically devastated Navajo communities along the San Juan River, and the federal government’s failed response to this crisis is a public health, natural resources and economic disaster. The Navajo people have suffered due to the reckless actions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other responsible parties.”

“To make matters worse, the EPA continues to add insult to injury by refusing to send even a single representative to the upcoming field hearing on the spill. It has been eight months since the incident and despite promises to take full responsibility for the consequences of the three million gallon toxic spill, the EPA has instead dragged its feet and has yet to fully reimburse the Navajo Nation’s costs. We commend Senator McCain for calling out the EPA’s unacceptable behavior and holding Administrator McCarthy accountable. As the administrator of the EPA, it is McCarthy’s responsibility to appear at this important hearing to personally provide information about the EPA’s reckless actions and explain how and when this federal agency intends to compensate our families.”