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March 29, 2010

Administrator Lisa Jackson
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Attention: Clean Coal and Carbon and Storage Task Force Chairs

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The National Tribal Air Association (NTAA)¹ wishes to engage with the newly formed Interagency Clean Coal and Carbon Storage Task Force (Task Force) proposed by President Obama in a February 4, 2010 Presidential Memorandum. NTAA and its member Tribal Nations have a fundamental interest in resource extraction and development technologies used in and adjacent to our Tribal homelands.

The NTAA appreciates an update on the formation process of this Task Force. NTAA believes that Tribal Nations should have an opportunity for direct input into Task Force discussions in accordance with Executive Order 13175, the 1984 EPA Indian Policy, and the DOE American Indian and Alaska Native Policy. Our organization and its member Tribes, stress the need to balance the uses of coal technologies with the importance of preserving our permanent homelands.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s report entitled “Carbon Capture Storage in the West” found likely significant risks to Tribal communities over whose land carbon dioxide pipelines would likely be built. A

¹ The NTAA is an autonomous organization of the National Tribal Environmental Council with more than 50 principal member Tribes. The NTAA’s mission is to advance air quality management policies and programs, consistent with the needs, interests, and unique legal status of American Indian tribes and Alaskan Natives. As such, the NTAA uses its resources to support the efforts of all federally recognized tribes in protecting the improving the air quality within their respective jurisdictions. Although NTAA always seeks to represent consensus perspectives on any given issue, it is important to note that the views expressed by NTAA may not be agreed with by all tribes. Furthermore, it is also important that any Federal Government agency or taskforce understands that interactions with NTAA do not substitute for government-to-government consultation which can only be achieved through direct communication between the federal government and tribal governments.

common theme throughout this report is how CO2 injection on tribal resources should be treated.

NTAA is looking forward to your update of how the Task Force formation process is progressing and how it will function. Tribal Nations are the original stewards of this land, and therefore understand the significance of policy formation by such a Task Force. Your policies can have great impacts to our tribal lands, sovereign rights, and subsistence way of life. We look forward to working with your Agency and the Task Force. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact NTAA's Program Director, Stephen Hartsfield. Mr. Hartsfield can be reached at (505) 242-2175 or shartsfield@ntec.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Bill Thompson
National Tribal Air Association Executive Committee Chairperson
Tribal Vice-Chief, Penobscot Nation

cc:

President of the United States of America Barack Obama
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner
Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke
Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis
Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood
Secretary of Department of Energy Steven Chu
Director of the Office of Management and Budget Peter Orszag
Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Jon Wellinghoff
Director of the Office of Science and Technology John Holdren
Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality Nancy Sutley
President of the National Congress of American Indians Jefferson Keel, Chicksaw Nation
U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation Senior Indian Program Manager C. Darrel Harmon