



NAVAJO NATION WATER RIGHTS COMMISSION

Advertisement to Secure Qualified Candidates for One Vacancy

WESTERN AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE (4-YEAR INITIAL TERM)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Members of the Navajo public residing or registered to vote within the five Navajo Regional Agencies are encouraged to apply for the Western Agency Representative position on the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission ("Commission").

The Commission is comprised of seven (7) members: the Attorney General; the Director of the Department of Water Resources; and five (5) appointed members to represent the Navajo public. The President appoints the Commissioners for the Shiprock agency and Chinle agency, the Speaker appoints the Commissioners for the Ft. Defiance agency and Eastern agency, and the Chief Justice appoints the Commissioner for the Western agency.

Upon selection by the Chief Justice, the candidate's appointment for the Western Agency Representative will be submitted to the Resources & Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council ("RDC") for confirmation. Please know that previously appointed and confirmed Commissioners may be reappointed. Terms shall be for four (4) years.

The purpose of the Commission is to ensure that the water rights of the Nation are vigorously pursued and effectively coordinated, and to enhance the communication between all entities engaged in water rights efforts on behalf of the Nation. The Commission must conduct a regular meeting once a month, meet with the Navajo general public once a quarter, and may conduct special and emergency meetings as necessary.

Examples of the duties of the Commission include: report to the President and RDC on the progress of advancing the Nation's water rights claims and implementing water rights settlements; establish objectives and priorities for the Nation's water rights efforts; approve budgets and expenditures from the Water Rights Claims Fund; disseminate information to the public regarding water rights issues; and advocate in support of the Nation's water rights efforts, as more fully described in the Commission's Plan of Operation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Be a member of the Navajo public with demonstrated ability to represent one of the five agencies of the Nation. Please note that the Plan of Operation requires that a minimum of five of the seven Commissioners shall be enrolled members of the Nation, therefore so long as five Commissioners are enrolled members, the other two members are not required to be enrolled. Currently all other six Commissioners are enrolled with the Navajo Nation.
- Willing to make the work of the Commission a priority and regularly attend Commission meetings;
- Be able to effectively communicate with all parties/entities involved with water rights issues, including the general public, and advocate to secure and protect the Nation's water rights;
- Shall not hold any elected position with any state, county, federal, city or tribal government.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- General understanding of water resource development and the means of securing water rights;
- Experience in the fields of engineering, economics, hydrology, natural resources law; or similarly related fields;
- Previous service as a public official;
- Enrolled with the Navajo Nation;
- Ability to speak the Navajo language.

SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION:

If interested, please submit your letter of interest addressing your qualifications with a current résumé to: Jacqueline Mitchell, Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission, at jacquelinemitchell@navajo-nsn.gov with the subject line: **Navajo Water Rights Commission Western Agency Vacancy Position**. Applications must be received no later than **October 16, 2026**. The Commission will distribute applications to the appropriate Branch Chief, who will advise the Commission of their selections.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission at telephone number (928) 871-7574.