

NAVAJO NATION WATER RIGHTS COMMISSION
Advertisement to Secure Qualified Candidates for Two Vacancies
Fort Defiance Agency Representative (4-year initial term)
Eastern 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 positions 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) members appointed by the Navajo Nation (“Nation”) leadership 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 appropriate Branch Chief, the candidate’s name will be submitted to the Resources & Development Committee (“RDC”) for approval. Appointed Commissioners may be reappointed, and after the expiration of the initial terms, all 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 lobby 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. Five of the seven Commissioners shall be enrolled members of the 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;
- Ability to speak the Navajo language.

SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATION:

If interested, please submit your letter of interest indicating the agency you seek to represent and addressing your qualifications for the position together with a current résumé via email to: Jacqueline Mitchell, Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission, at jacquelinemitchell@navajo-nsn.gov with the subject line: Navajo Water Rights Commission Eastern Agency or Fort Defiance Agency Vacancy Position.

Applications must be received no later than **November 29th, 2024**. 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.