



Navajo Transitional Energy Company

Vern Lund
Chief Executive Officer

306050

January 26, 2023

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 26, 2023
Part of
Public Record

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

Pursuant to your Notice of Vacancy published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2022, I am writing to request that my name be placed in nomination for one of the coal producer positions on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). I believe I would bring a unique and valuable perspective to the committee.

I serve as the Chief Executive Officer for Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC). NTEC is the 3rd largest coal producer in the United States, with annual domestic sales of approximately \$51 million and sales of 3 to 5 million tons annually into the export market. In addition to mining and selling coal, NTEC also produces and sells helium, has an ownership interest in a coal-fired power plant, is a partner in a lithium mine under development, holds a material investment in a rare earth mine and is actively pursuing wind and solar projects. Additionally, we own and fully operate a 12-mile rail line at our Navajo Mine. This diversity of business has allowed us to see and work with many different facets of the supply chain, while being overwhelmingly reliant on rail service to meet our economic and production goals.

However, the most distinguishing aspect of NTEC from other coal producers in the United States is that we are owned by the Navajo Nation. As a Tribal entity, we have additional considerations and responsibilities which make our story unique. We are a significant contributor to the Navajo Nation general fund – approximately 30% each and every year. As such, when our operations are impacted by rail service, the economic impacts are far reaching and the burden – or boon – is borne by one of the most impoverished communities in the county. This added stewardship that NTEC owes to the Navajo Nation has become incredibly important in a time when Class 1 rail systems have faltered and there is a strong movement underway to eliminate fossil fuels.

Prior to my leadership role at NTEC, I have held various leadership and engineering positions at coal companies over the past 25 years, including North American Coal, Liberty Fuels Company, Falkirk Mining Company, MS Lignite Mining Company, and

January 26, 2023

Coteau Properties Company. I welcome the opportunity to bring my expertise to the table as a representative of the entire coal industry as part of the RETAC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vern Lund", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vern Lund