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Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye tells a Senate committee that EPA's response to the Animas River spill created a "culture of distrust" between the tribe and the agency. Photo/Charles McConnell

# Lawmakers, Navajo tribal officials blast EPA for Animas River spill response

**By Charles McConnell**  
Cronkite News

WASHINGTON — Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye on Wednesday blasted the Environmental Protection Agency's handling of a toxic spill in the Animas River, saying the agency's response left his tribe feeling abandoned, uncertain and hopeless.

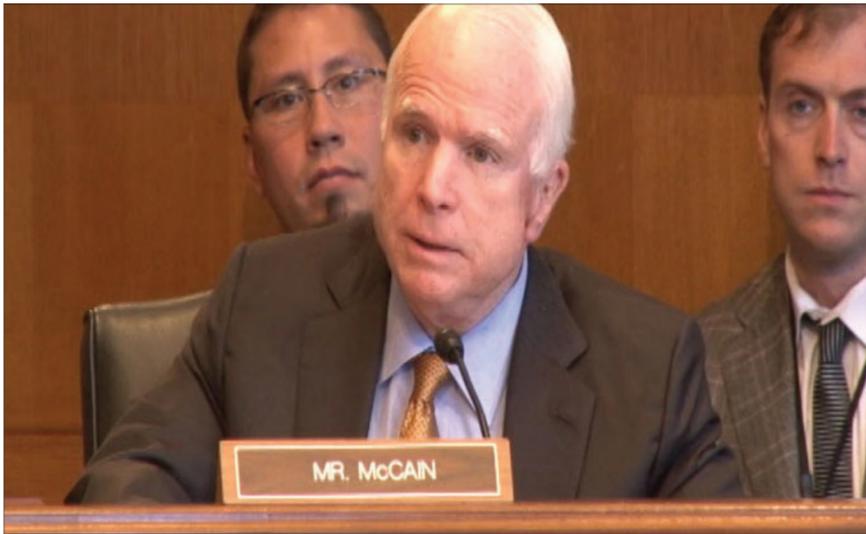
"We don't know who to trust anymore," said Begaye, who told a Senate committee that in addition to the toxic threats from the spill, desperation over the situation has since contributed to three suicides in a Navajo

community.

Begaye's testimony came during the first of two days of hearings by House and Senate committees into the Aug. 5 breach at the Gold King Mine in Colorado that spewed 3 million gallons of metal-laden wastewater into the Animas River.

The resulting contamination plume flowed into the San Juan River, tainting waters in Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, including large swathes of the Navajo Nation. The release came during work that was being overseen

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Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, demands to know why no EPA employees or contractors had been fired in the wake of the 3 million gallon spill into the Animas River. Photo/Charles McConnell

# Coconino County Supervisors OK Glittering Mountain development

## Project near Twin Arrows to include retail, housing and entertainment

**By Katherine Locke**  
Navajo-Hopi Observer  
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FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The Coconino County Board of Supervisors Sept. 1 approved a zone change for seventy-acres north of I-40 next to Twin Arrows Resort and Casino that allows development of an entertainment center, retail stores, cultural center and housing, among other things.

Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Inc. requested a

zone change from general to mixed use to allow for its expansion plans. The adopted agreement with some amendments paves the way for the group to develop the property in four phases over 10 years.

Because the project is on fee simple land, not tribal trust land, the county needed to approve the agreement.

Nathan Begay, CEO of the Navajo Nation Shopping Center, Inc., said

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Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Inc. plans to build an entertainment center, retail stores, cultural center and housing next to Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort over the next 10-12 years. Submitted photo

# Hopi Arts and Cultural Festival set for Saturday and Sunday

**By Katherine Locke**  
Navajo-Hopi Observer  
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FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The sixth annual Hopi All Native Arts and Cultural Festival in downtown Flagstaff Sept. 26 -27 is an opportunity for visitors and residents to experience some of the best northern Arizona Native American culture and art.

Sponsored by the Hopi Tribe Economic Development Corporation (HTEDC) as part of the Explore Hopi tourism program, the festival showcases Hopi, Navajo and other Native American artisans including nationally recognized dance groups in an outdoor and family friendly atmosphere. Festival donations will go toward preventing substance abuse.

The festival takes place in Heritage Square from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The celebration of Native cultures will include social dances, music and traditional and contemporary art. Artisans include potters, carvers, weavers and painters and notable artists.

According to Lisa Talayumptewa, event coordinator for HTEDC, the event aims to bring together the communities and visitors from around the world to learn from one another togetherness, happiness and stewardship of Mother Earth for all people from different walks of life.

"This festival is for the whole family to enjoy the beauty of Native American art and culture," Talayumptewa said. "Life in the eyes of an artist is unique and reflects the beauty in life and brings out serenity."

Seven-time world champion hoop dancer Derrick Suwaima Davis will hoop dance — a dance that many tribes perform throughout the U.S. and Canada. Davis' hoops reflect what he sees in nature, like eagles or hummingbirds or insects and the five hoops represent the different stages of life and the difficulties represented in each ending with a hoop that encourages everyone to remember why they have an opportunity called life.

Other performances will include a Haaku' Buffalo Dance Group, Hopi Little Eagle Dance Group, Hopi Buffalo Dance Group, Hooyapi Dance Group, Kwant'toi' Hooyam Dance Group among other performers. Demonstrators will be on the square showcasing Hopi weaving and basketry, overlay, doll carving and paintings.

A silent auction will also take place on the square both days of the festival — artists donated some of the items as did some of the businesses downtown. A raffle will also take place.

Organizers started the first market in 2010 to assist artisans in selling their art and crafts to provide for their families, and to provide an opportunity for them to share a little about their way of life and rich culture.

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