

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - THIRD YEAR, 2021

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING  
THE APPOINTMENT OF VALINDA COOK SHIRLEY AS DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO  
NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- A. The Navajo Nation Code provides that the Resources and Development Committee is to recommend the appointment of the Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency. 2 N.N.C. § 1923.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- C. A proposed resolution requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(9).

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- A. The Navajo Nation Code provides, "[t]he Environmental Protection Agency shall be administered by a Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Navajo Nation, subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council, upon the recommendation of the Resources [and Development] Committee of the Navajo Nation Council." 2 N.N.C. § 1923.
- B. The Navajo Nation President appoints Valinda Cook Shirley as the Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency. Ms. Shirley's appointment letter and Resume are attached as **Exhibit A**.

**SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO NATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

The Navajo Nation Council confirms the Navajo Nation President's appointment of Valinda Cook Shirley as the Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 22 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

  
Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

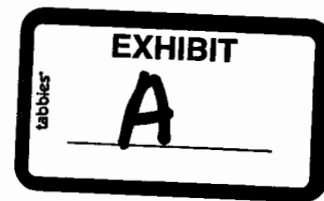
2-18-2021

DATE

Motion: Honorable Jamie Henio

Second: Honorable Eugene Tso

Speaker Seth Damon not voting



**Valinda Cook**  
Box [REDACTED]  
Rock Point, AZ 86545  
[REDACTED]  
valinda.shirley@navajo-nsn.gov  
Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Offer my candidacy for the Executive Director of Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency to enhance Diné public health and environment.

### **Work Experience**

**Senior Remedial Project Manager**  
Navajo Nation EPA Superfund  
WINDOW ROCK, AZ  
May 2019-Present

- Coordinate on-site activities for environmental cleanup or remediation projects to ensure compliance with Navajo Nation and Federal environmental laws, standards, regulations, or other requirements such as Diné Bibeehazáanii (Diné Fundamental Law)
- Coordinate multimedia inspections such as the recent HEMP farm inspections
- Inspect sites to assess environmental damage or monitor cleanup progress
- Provide direct oversight of Navajo CERCLA activities
- Prepare reports or presentations to communicate Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine site needs, status, or progress
- Identify environmental contamination sources
- Maintain records of decisions, actions, and progress related to environmental redevelopment projects
- Design or implement plans for surface or ground water remediation
- Coordinate the disposal of hazardous waste
- Conduct quantitative risk assessments for human health, environmental, or other risks
- Communicating with Persons Outside Organization
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with all applicable and appropriate Navajo Nation laws and regulations
- Provide Comments on Behalf of NNEPA Superfund on US EPA, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and responsible party technical reports.
- Analyzing Data or Information
- Resolving Conflicts and Negotiating with Others
- Developing Objectives and Strategies
- Performing for or Working Directly with the Public
- Developing and Building Teams
- Experience with: ESRI ArcView, Global positioning system GPS receivers, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft PowerPoint, Web browser software

**School Board Vice President**  
Rock Point Community School  
ROCK POINT, AZ  
January 2017-Present

- Appoint department heads or managers and assign or delegate responsibilities to them
- Confer with other school board members, organization officials, or staff members to discuss issues, coordinate activities, or resolve problems
- Implement corrective action plans to solve organizational or departmental problems
- Interpret and explain policies, rules, regulations, or laws to organizations, government or corporate officials, or individuals
- Serve as liaisons between organizations, shareholders, and local communities
- Guiding, Directing, and Motivating Subordinates
- Developing and Building Teams
- Handle Personnel issues

#### **Community Involvement Coordinator**

Phase 2 Removal Site Evaluation Trust

Navajo, NM

November 2018-April 2019

- Respond to requests for information from the media or serve as spokesperson
- Help prepare Community Involvement Plans for Trustee
- Write press releases or other media communications to promote clients
- Establish or maintain cooperative relationships with representatives of community, congressmen, employees of US EPA & NNEPA, or public interest groups
- Prepare or deliver speeches to further public relations objective
- Thinking Creatively
- Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Community Outreach Activities
- Interpreting the Meaning of Information for Others
- Performing for or Working Directly with the Public
- Training and Teaching Others
- Experience with: Adobe Systems Adobe Creative Cloud, Adobe Systems Adobe Photoshop, Facebook, LinkedIn

#### **Environmental Specialist**

Navajo Nation EPA Waste Regulatory

Window Rock, AZ

November 2017-November 2018

- Review and implement environmental technical standards, guidelines, policies, and formal regulations that meet all appropriate requirements
- Provide scientific or technical guidance, support, coordination, or oversight to governmental agencies, environmental programs, industry, or the public
- Communicate scientific or technical information to the public, organizations, or internal audiences through oral briefings, written documents, workshops, conferences, training sessions, or public hearings
- Develop the technical portions of legal documents, administrative orders, or consent decrees
- Conduct environmental audits or inspections or investigations of violations
- Supervise or train students, environmental technologists, technicians, or other related staff
- Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates
- Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards
- Documenting/Recording Information
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems

- Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work
- Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships
- Communicating with Persons Outside Organization
- Analyzing Data or Information
- Scheduling Work and Activities
- Provide Consultation and Advice to Others
- Experience with: C++

**Business Consultant**

Rock Point Community School

Rock Point, AZ

August 2015-July 2016

- Document findings of study and prepare recommendations for implementation of new systems, procedures, or organizational changes
- Interview personnel and conduct on-site observation to ascertain unit functions, work performed, and methods, equipment, and personnel used
- Prepare manuals and train workers in use of new forms, reports, procedures or equipment, according to organizational policy
- Review forms and reports and confer with management and users about format, distribution, and purpose, and to identify problems and improvements
- Provide Consultation and Advice to Others
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work
- Monitor Processes, Materials, or Surroundings
- Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards
- Coaching and Developing Others
- Documenting/Recording Information
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Material
- Ensure all business office purchase orders, checks had all supporting documents
- Ensure Rock Point Business Office had an "unqualified" audit each fiscal year
- Experience with: Fund accounting software, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Publisher

**Acting Business Manager**

Rock Point Community School

Rock Point, AZ

November 2010-July 2015

- Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information
- Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes
- Prepare bank deposits by compiling data from cashiers, verifying and balancing receipts, and sending cash, checks, or other forms of payment to banks
- Classify, record, and summarize numerical and financial data to compile and keep financial records, using journals and ledgers or computers
- Debit, credit, and total accounts on computer spreadsheets and databases, using specialized accounting software

- Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents
- Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers
- Calculate, prepare, and issue bills, invoices, account statements, and other financial statements according to established procedures
- Calculate and prepare checks for utilities, taxes, and other payments
- Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations
- Compute deductions for income and social security taxes
- Compile statistical, financial, accounting, or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits and losses
- Code documents according to company procedures
- Prepare and process payroll information
- Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records
- Access computerized financial information to answer general questions as well as those related to specific accounts
- Reconcile records of bank transactions
- Complete and submit tax forms and returns, workers' compensation forms, pension contribution forms, and other government documents
- Prepare purchase orders and expense reports
- Match order forms with invoices, and record the necessary information
- Monitor status of loans and accounts to ensure that payments are up to date
- Perform general office duties, such as filing, answering telephones, and handling routine correspondence
- Maintain inventory records
- Documenting/Recording Information
- Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work
- Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates
- Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships
- Performing Administrative Activities
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Evaluating Information to Determine Compliance with Standards
- Train all incoming staff

#### **Environmental Compliance Technician**

SWCA

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

June 2007-July 2010

- Record test data and prepare reports, summaries, or charts that interpret test results
- Investigate hazardous conditions or spills or outbreaks of disease or food poisoning, collecting samples for analysis
- Provide information or technical or program assistance to government representatives, employers, or the general public on the issues of public health, environmental protection, or workplace safety
- Weigh, analyze, or measure collected sample particles, such as lead, coal dust, or rock to determine concentration of pollutants
- Set up equipment or stations to monitor and collect pollutants from sites, such as smoke stacks, manufacturing plants, or mechanical equipment
- Work and coordinate with New Mexico Tribes on projects
- Project Field Lead

**Education**

**Bachelor's Degree, Biochemistry**  
University Of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, AZ

**Honors & Awards**

**Achievement Analytical Chemistry**  
Lab Experiments were all in the 95% Confidence Interval

**Valedictorian Award**  
Graduated 1st from Rock Point High School

**Dean's List**  
Dine College Semester GPA above 3.0

**References Available Upon Request**

Valinda Shirley  
Post Office Box [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

December 2, 2020

Office of the President and Vice President  
Nez-Lizer Administration  
100 Parkway  
Post Office Box 7440  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Yá'át'ééh Shinaat'áanii,

Yá'át'ééh dóó nitsxaago ahxéhee'. Shí éí Valinda Shirley yinishyé. Táchiinii dine'é nishlįįgo, T'ííł łání báshishchiin. Bit'ahnii éí dashicheii dóó Ta'neeshahnii éí dashinalí. Shí éí Tsé Nitsaah Deezáhi déé' naashá. Shí éí sha'álchíní dóó biiłíná 'íshínígíí hóló. I am a fluent speaker of the Navajo language who was raised in the hoghan nímazí dóó dibé bikéé' shiyaah hoo'á', with all the traditional Navajo teachings that Shimásání could impart to me. My husband and I raise our two daughters in the community of Rock Point, Arizona, where I have been serving as an elected school board member for the past four years. I fully understand the importance of working on behalf of shiké (our people), and I can help fill a vacant role within your cabinet.

With that being said, I humbly and respectfully offer my candidacy for the position of Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (Navajo EPA). I heartily agree with former Director Oliver Whaley's recommendation to be his replacement, and it would be a tremendous honor to serve in this capacity.

I hold the Office of the Executive Director of the Navajo EPA in the highest regard, and I have the utmost respect for the agency and its employees. Since 1992, Navajo EPA has been the regulatory authority that safeguards Diné bikéyah dóó Nihookaa' Dine'é. In my experience working with the agency, it has served as an integral part of government by ensuring Nihimá Nahasdzaan dóó Nihit'aa' Yádiłhił are kept clean to the highest of standards for our seventh-generation grandchildren.

Currently, I am the Senior Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for the Navajo EPA Superfund and was the second person ever to be hired as a Navajo RPM. Director Whaley was innovative by creating the RPM position to coordinate the Navajo EPA's response to the Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUM) on behalf of the Navajo people.

The AUM projects that I have been spearheading are the Northeast Church Rock Mine Site and the Tronox sites in Cove and Tse Tah, Arizona. I have also had the responsibility to closely advise the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) concerning the various Navajo Nation laws and Diné Fundamental Law as Applicable or Relevant & Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) used in the clean-up standards at the Mariano Lake, Mac and Black Mine Sites located in New Mexico. I am currently in the process of coordinating with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on a Source Material License amendment for the United Nuclear Corporation mill site in the Eastern Navajo Agency.



I view US EPA and other federal agencies as partners of the Navajo EPA, and I also believe in the inviolability of our Navajo Nation laws. Navajo Nation laws and regulations are in place to protect the Diné, especially when federal regulations become lax in their standards. In the past, only federal laws were used as across-the-board clean-up standards that failed in protecting the Diné. I see this evident at my project sites across the Navajo Nation. Therefore, it is imperative to safeguard affected communities by ensuring that Navajo Nation laws and regulations are adhered to.

Shinaat'aanii, I cannot tell you how vital the Navajo EPA scientists are in the AUM clean-up efforts and during different types of environmental crisis. The responsiveness and community concern held by Navajo EPA scientists is highly admirable. As one of these scientists, my heart immediately goes out to Nihimá Nahasdzaan dóó Nihit'aa' Yádilhił and to our Diné people who are being adversely affected. My mind is always busy processing an effective course of action to reverse negative environmental impacts on our Diné communities. Here are some instances of how I assisted Navajo EPA in the roles of Environmental Scientist to On-site Coordinator: the feral horse incident at Grey Mountain; the ongoing Gold King Mine litigation; the Chilchinbeto community Coronavirus outbreak; and more recently, I aided Director Whaley in a multi-media inspection of the alleged Hemp Farms in the Shiprock vicinity.

As your new Executive Director, the following are my top goals for Navajo EPA and the Navajo Nation:

- Strengthen direct lines of communication with our Diné through community involvement and Ké.
- Ensure that currently funded AUMs progress to a certain level of clean-up with tangible results.
- Strategize a way for the Navajo Nation to address the illegal dumping of refuse on the Nation.

As your Executive Director, I will accomplish these goals by exercising stable leadership to create a team environment in the agency. Communication and ké are also crucial in fulfilling these goals. I know this because these ideals are ingrained in me and practiced as a school board member representing four Navajo communities in the Northern Navajo Agency. I am familiar with fiduciary trust responsibilities and passionately believe that projects, legislation, and meaningful change can happen through teamwork and collaboration from all government branches.

As a Senior RPM, I find myself in hot water plenty of times. And have been on the political hot seat and the voice of community members in meeting with federal agencies. As your Executive Director, I will continue to prove to be an invaluable asset to Navajo EPA, your administration, and most importantly, to our people, the Diné. Through my working experience, knowledge, and leadership skills, I am confident that I am prepared to lead and successfully fulfill the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation EPA position.

Please strongly consider my interest and favorable capabilities for this position. I look forward to hearing from you soon. I can be reached at the address above or by email at [valinda.shirley@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:valinda.shirley@navajo-nsn.gov).

Ahxéhee',



# THE NAVAJO NATION

---

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT

MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



December 28, 2020

Valinda Shirley  
Post Office Box  
Rock Point, Arizona 86545

**RE: Appointment as Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency**

Dear Ms. Shirley,

The Nez-Lizer Administration was elected on a mandate of change for the Navajo Nation. This change involves appointing qualified, motivated and experienced individuals who will move the Navajo Nation forward by "Working Together" to serve the Navajo people. This letter shall serve as a formal notification to your appointment as Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA). This appointment will take effect on January 04, 2020 at 8:00AM. Please note that this position is subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council.

Your duties as director are outlined at 2NNC §1923. You shall be responsible for the administration and management of the Environmental Protection Agency and supervision of all applicable personnel. This includes ensuring compliance with all applicable Navajo Nation laws and policies.

Your salary will be that of the current budgeted salary for the position. Throughout this appointment, you will report to the Chief of Staff under the Office of the President and Vice President. Again, we thank you for your willingness to serve the Navajo people. Ahe'hee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, Vice President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

## NAVAJO NATION

2/12/2021

Navajo Nation Council Special Session

03:38:33 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0010-21: Confirming	PASSED
MOT Henio, J	the Appointment of Valinda Cook	
SEC Tso, E	Shirley as Director of the	
	Navajo Nation Environment Protec	

**Yeas : 22****Nays : 0****Excused : 0****Not Voting : 1****Yea : 22**

Begay, E	Daniels	Slater, C	Tso, E
Begay, K	Freeland, M	Stewart, W	Walker, T
Begay, P	Halona, P	Tso	Wauneka, E
Brown	Henio, J	Tso, C	Yazzie
Charles-Newton	James, V	Tso, D	Yellowhair
Crotty	Nez, R		

**Nay : 0****Excused : 0****Not Voting : 1**

Smith

**Presiding Speaker: Damon**