

Dated: January 9, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026-00668 Filed 1-14-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312-52-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6865; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041843; PPWOCRADNO-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Museum of the Cherokee People, Cherokee, NC

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Museum of the Cherokee People (MotCP) has completed an inventory of human remains and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains in this notice may occur on or after February 17, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Evan Mathis, Museum of the Cherokee People, P.O. Box 1599, 589 Tsali Blvd., Cherokee, NC 28719, email evan.mathis@motcp.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Museum of the Cherokee People, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human ancestral remains representing, at least, two individuals have been identified from an unknown archaeological site near Claytor Lake in Pulaski County, Virginia. No associated funerary objects are present. After completing the consultation process with federally recognized Tribal Nations, this site is culturally affiliated with the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, the Monacan Indian Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee

Indians. These individuals were removed by an unnamed family friend of a Gary E. Mallery of Radford, Virginia. Gary E. Mallery transferred these human ancestral remains to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on December 24th, 1998. They were then transferred to the Museum of the Cherokee People where they have been housed since. To our knowledge, no hazardous substances were used to treat any of the human ancestral remains.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the geographical location or acquisition history of the human remains described in this notice.

Determinations

The Museum of the Cherokee People has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of two individuals of Native American ancestry.
- There is a connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Cherokee Nation; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Monacan Indian Nation; and the United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under

ADDRESSES. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.
2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after February 17, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Museum of the Cherokee People must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Museum of the Cherokee People is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: January 9, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026-00673 Filed 1-14-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6851; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041829; PPWOCRADNO-PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after February 17, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Dr. Nicole Klarmann, Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099, email kshs.nagpra@ks.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the KSHS and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of three cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The three sacred objects are two bows and one arrow. Items 1898.6.86 (bow and arrow) were donated to KSHS in 1898 and were given to the donor's relative by a Modoc person during an encounter in southern Kansas prior to the Modoc people relocating to Indian Territory. Item 1980.229.85 (bow) was transferred

from the Pony Express Station State Historic Site in 1980 to KSHS and was originally donated by a resident of Hanover, KS. No known hazardous substances were used to treat any of the cultural items.

Determinations

The KSHS has determined that:

- The three sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.

- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Modoc Nation.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after February 17, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the KSHS must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The KSHS is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: January 9, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026-00659 Filed 1-14-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000
256S180110; S2D2S SS08011000
SX064A000 25XS501520]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Navajo Transitional Energy Company's No Name Permit Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act Permit Application

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is publishing this notice to announce that it will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Navajo Transitional Energy Company's (NTEC) proposed Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) permit for the No Name Permit area within NTEC's existing Navajo Mine Lease 14-20-603-2505. With this notice, OSMRE is also providing notification to the public that it will hold a public scoping meeting and provide for a public scoping period to receive comments on the environmental issues that OSMRE should analyze in this EIS. If approved, the permit boundary would encompass 11,526 acres and authorize surface mining and reclamation operations on 9,042 acres and the recovery of 502 million tons of Navajo Nation coal.

DATES: OSMRE requests comments concerning the scope of the analysis in the EIS, as well as reasonable alternatives to be considered, and identification of relevant information, studies, and analyses that may be useful in evaluating potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. All comments must be received by February 4, 2026. The public scoping meeting will be held at the Burnham Chapter House on the Navajo Nation on Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to the Project by either of the following methods:

- *Email:* NoNameNEPAComments@ce.solutions. Be sure to send emails with the subject line: ATTN: No Name SMCRA Permit EIS.

- *Mail:* ATTN No Name SMCRA Permit EIS, C/O Roberta Martínez Hernández, OSMRE Western Regions 5, 7-11, P.O. Box 25065, Lakewood, CO 80225-0065.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Roberta Martínez Hernández, NEPA Project Manager, email: rmartinezhernandez@osmre.gov or at the address provided in the **ADDRESSES** section. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OSMRE Regions 5, 7-11 will prepare an EIS for the No Name SMCRA Permit application (Project). In accordance with SMCRA, OSMRE must approve, disapprove, or approve the Project with conditions because the Project is on Indian lands, as that term is defined under SMCRA, including tribal lands with leased tribal coal (BIA Mine Lease 14-20-603-2505). The lease agreement grants NTEC the right to mine within the lease area; however, mining cannot occur until a SMCRA permit is obtained. The Navajo Nation owns the surface and mineral rights of the entire lease area and the permit areas located within it.

OSMRE will prepare an EIS to analyze the potential environmental effects of the Project. The EIS will analyze the potential environmental effects of mining, including the realignment of Burnham Road and the Pinabete Arroyo. The only current customer of the Navajo Mine Complex is the Four Corners Power Plant, which has an approved lease through 2041; therefore, it is reasonably foreseeable that all coal mined at the Project will be used at the plant until 2041. Beyond 2041, the ultimate destination for the coal from the Project is unknown.

The No Name Permit area is located on the Navajo Nation approximately 22 miles from Farmington, New Mexico. The proposed surface coal mine is within NTEC's existing Navajo Mine Lease 14-20-603-2505, located adjacent to the southern boundary of the current Navajo Mine (OSMRE Permit No. NM-0042B) and adjacent to NTEC's Pinabete permit southern boundary. The No Name boundary permit area covers 11,526 acres, completely within tribal lands, and the current surface land use is grazing. The Project would allow for 9,042 acres of additional surface disturbance and production of 502,984,700 tons of recoverable coal, extending the life of the mine to 2136. The initial permit will be for five years with a right of renewal for the life of the mine, as long as all legal requirements are met. The annual production rate for the Project is anticipated to be approximately 5 million tons per year,