



**For Immediate Release**

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## **NTUA accepts transfer of Southern Trails Natural Gas Pipeline**

**FORT DEFIANCE, AZ** – Officials from Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Dominion Energy today signed the official transfer of the eastern portion of the Southern Trails Pipeline Company’s natural gas pipeline, which, subject to regulatory approval, will allow the NTUA to assume ownership of the system and continue providing natural gas services to northwestern tribal communities.

In 2002, Southern Trails Pipeline Company (currently owned by Dominion Energy) began operating a new Interstate natural gas pipeline traversing the Navajo Nation to transport gas to California. This development allowed NTUA to tap into the Southern Trails Pipeline to provide new service to Navajo communities in Red Mesa, Kayenta, and Tuba City. The economy changed during the years and the market for natural gas shifted, thereby prompting Southern Trails Pipeline Company to make plans to abandon the system.

“If this system shut down, so would the gas service to our communities,” said NTUA General Manager Walter Haase. “We could not let that happen so we sat down with Dominion Energy to see what options we had to continue providing gas service.”

In 2016, negotiations began between NTUA and Dominion Energy, resulting in the official signing ceremony witnessed by Navajo Nation leaders, including Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation Speaker of the Council LoRenzo Bates, and Navajo Nation Resources and Development Committee Chairman Alton Joe Shepherd.

This transaction benefits NTUA because it preserves the existing gas service to our customers. In addition the acquired pipeline would allow NTUA to expand its gas service to other tribal communities located along the pipeline which runs east from Blanco Hub in northwest New Mexico west to Cameron, Arizona.

“We’re delighted that as a result of today’s agreement the Navajo Nation communities served by the NTUA will continue to benefit from safe and reliable natural gas service,” said Diane Leopold, CEO of Dominion Energy’s Gas Infrastructure Group. “Today’s signing is an example of what can happen when two organizations work collaboratively to find common ground and achieve a solution that supports customers.”

The transfer is subject to regulatory approval which is expected to be received during 2018. For a period of one year following regulatory approval of the transaction, Dominion Energy will provide NTUA various services to facilitate NTUA’s operation of the acquired pipeline assets and integration into the NTUA distribution system, including helping to contribute to NTUA’s costs in complying with federal pipeline safety regulations.

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**About NTUA:** NTUA has continuously served the Navajo people for more than 58 years. The NTUA was established on January 22, 1959, to address the absence of utilities on the Navajo Nation, and NTUA has grown into a thriving tribally-owned enterprise delivering a portfolio of services. The NTUA is organized for the operation, maintenance and expansion of electric, communications, natural gas, water, wastewater and renewable energy generation, including photovoltaic (solar) services for the Navajo people at a low and reasonable cost. Other objectives of the NTUA are to promote employment opportunities on the Navajo Nation, and to improve the health and welfare of the residents of the Navajo Nation.

**About DOMINION ENERGY:** Dominion Energy (NYSE: D) is one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy, with a portfolio of approximately 25,600 megawatts of generation, 15,000 miles of natural gas transmission, gathering and storage pipeline, and 6,600 miles of electric transmission lines. Dominion Energy operates one of the nation's largest natural gas storage systems with 1 trillion cubic feet of storage capacity and serves more than 6 million utility and retail energy customers. For more information about Dominion Energy, visit the company's website at [www.dominionenergy.com](http://www.dominionenergy.com).