NNOGC Seats Four New Directors

Four open seats filled following rigorous new nominations process

St. Michaels, Ariz. – On January 29, 2016, the Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company (NNOGC or Company) welcomed four new Directors to the Company’s Board of Directors following a rigorous new nomination and confirmation process established by the Board’s Nominations Committee in accordance with the Company’s Restated Federal Charter. The Company held its first meeting with the new Directors on the same date.

Last year the Navajo Nation Council ratified a Restated Federal Charter for NNOGC that established new qualifications for the Board of Directors. Candidates must have relevant experience in the oil and gas industry to be considered for nomination, among other requirements. Under the Restated Charter, the Nominations Committee is charged with recruiting, interviewing, screening and nominating all new Directors for confirmation by the Company’s five shareholder representatives.

“We are excited to welcome four new Directors who meet and exceed the Company’s new requirements,” said Diandra Benally, who serves as Chair of the Nominations Committee. “Collectively, the new Board of Directors possess decades of experience leading and advising oil and gas companies as well as specialized expertise that will be invaluable to NNOGC.”

The new Directors are:

- **Wilson Groen**, who has nearly five decades of experience in the oil and gas industry. Groen previously served as CEO and President of NNOGC for nine years and has served in leadership roles for several oil and gas companies operating in Navajo Indian Country.

- **Philip Winner**, a 35-year veteran in the oil and gas industry who brings Master’s degrees in geology and business administration. Winner has served as a senior executive of several significant oil and gas and oilfield service companies and has extensive technical and financial experience and expertise in the oil and gas industry.

- **Janna Blanter**, a licensed certified public accountant (CPA) with a master’s degree in business administration. Blanter has decades of experience in accounting, banking and finance in the energy industry, including the oil and gas industry. She currently serves as chief financial officer for an oil and gas company focused on upstream production. She previously served for 10 years on the Utilities Policy Advisory Committee, appointed by the Board of Colorado Springs Utilities.

- **Albert Damon Jr., Diné**, a small business owner and architect who has served leadership positions with several Navajo Nation organizations including four years as the Division Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development. Damon also served on the Board of Directors of the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, where he helped guide the wholly owned Navajo Nation enterprise into the black in its finances. Damon has extensive experience designing projects in Navajo Indian Country, including downstream oil and gas facilities and solar facilities.

The Restated Charter requires the Nominations Committee to thoroughly screen candidates – including background checks – and to ensure candidates meet all qualifications. In addition to relevant
oil and gas experience, candidates must have expertise in such fields as corporate finance, accounting, economics, law, business management, engineering, geophysics, and geology. They must have earned at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution. Once nominated, candidates are confirmed by NNOGC’s shareholder representatives. Following the nominations and confirmation process, the NNOGC Board of Directors seats the qualified candidates successfully completing the process.

“The Board nominations process for selecting new Directors gives the Company access to proven oil and gas industry professionals,” Benally said. “The result is a strong group of highly qualified Directors with experience to deal with the Company’s financial challenges caused by low crude oil prices and to help move NNOGC forward for the benefit of the Navajo Nation.”

The Restated Charter reduced the Board from nine to seven Directors and requires at least four Directors to be enrolled Navajo Nation tribal members. “Three additional Board seats will be filled in the coming months following the same process,” Benally said. Those positions must be filled by qualified enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.

About NNOGC
Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company (NNOGC) is a federally incorporated oil and gas company wholly owned by the Navajo Nation with headquarters in St. Michaels, Arizona and operations on the Navajo Nation in New Mexico and Utah. NNOGC owns significant oil and natural gas interests on the Navajo Nation, primarily in the San Juan Basin in New Mexico and the Greater Aneth, Tohonadla and Desert Creek fields in southeast Utah. The company also owns and operates the Running Horse Pipeline in southeast Utah and northwest New Mexico and gas stations on the Navajo Nation under the Navajo Petroleum and Chevron brands. NNOGC was established in 1998 as a federally chartered Section 17 Corporation under the Indian Reorganization Act.

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