



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Naabik'iyáti' Committee approves Gamerco site for location of new Gallup Indian Medical Center



The Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved a site selection for the new Gallup Indian Medical Center in Gamerco, N.M.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - On Thursday, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved a site selection in Gamerco, N.M., for the location of the new Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC).

"The Gallup Indian Medical Center critically provides health care services not only to our Navajo people but to all Native Americans in the region. We can't continue to have GIMC shut down because the facility is old and needs major renovations," said Delegate George Tolth who sponsored Legislation 0129-24, approving the site selection.

On June 8, GIMC was shut down due to major and consistent plumbing issues that had impacted the hospital's ability to provide health care services to its customers. Earlier this year, GIMC was closed on May 3 to address plumbing repairs.

Legislation 0129-24 rescinds Resolution NABIJY-30-20, which previously approved the selection of a site in Rehoboth, N.M., as a replacement site for GIMC. One reason for the change in location is that the Rehoboth site is not owned by the Navajo Nation. The Gamerco site is owned by the Navajo Nation.

Other reasons include the small acreage of the Rehoboth site, limited access for transportation,

zoning concerns, traditional and cultural impacts, and drainage and flooding issues.

On May 13, 2024, Council Delegate Nathan Notah met with Indian Health Service Director Roselyn Tso in Washington D.C., to advocate on behalf of replacing GIMC. During this meeting, Director Tso said that replacing GIMC was one of her top priorities.

Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren issued a letter to Director Tso on May 28, 2024, informing her of the Nation's updated site selection in Gamerco. Among the list of his requests, the President asked Tso and IHS for continued efforts to identify and designate full funding for the GIMC replacement facility.

The Navajo Nation will work together with IHS to maintain the current GIMC until the new facility is completed.

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved Legislation No. 0129-24 with a vote of 17 in favor and two opposed. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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