

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2014

Contacts: Will Greene | Phone: 480-259-7551, will.greene@sierraclub.org
Sandy Bahr | Phone: 602-999-5790, sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

**Moms, Public Health Advocates Gather to Send Mother's Day Message to EPA
Urge Cleanup of Arizona's Largest Coal Plant**

Phoenix, AZ – Local moms and public health advocates gathered on Tuesday to send a Mother's Day message, urging Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy to enforce the Clean Air Act at Navajo Generating Station (NGS), Arizona's largest and most polluting coal-fired power plant.

"We are calling on EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to enforce the Clean Air Act at NGS and provide important protection for surrounding communities and all of Arizona," said Elsa Johnson, a Navajo tribal member. "The alternative proposal by SRP does not adequately address the suffering of the Navajo and Hopi communities who must live with the health impacts of this massive coal plant. Delaying cleanup any further is unacceptable."

"I am very concerned about the coal plant pollution from the Navajo Generating Station and ask that the Environmental Protection Agency support cleaning up Arizona's air in order to protect the health and welfare of our state's residents and national icons such as Grand Canyon National Park," said State Senator Katie Hobbs. "Arizona's citizens deserve the same protections that communities around the country receive."

"I am asking the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt its original proposal to significantly reduce nitrogen oxide pollution from Navajo Generating Station within five years," said State Representative Lela Alston. "Other coal plants harming special places and public health have had to clean up within five years – our people and national parks, including Grand Canyon, should get the same protections."

The Clean Air Task Force estimates that pollution from NGS contributes to approximately 300 asthma attacks per year, along with 25 heart attacks, and 16 premature deaths, resulting in total annual health costs of more than \$127 million.

"At my school many of my classmates and friends have asthma, so I understand the fear that they have to experience. I would like to see the EPA act quickly to clean up not just NGS, but all of Arizona's coal plants," said Mesa grade school student Anna Rose Almeida.

"Our desert community used to be a haven for those seeking clean air to breath, and now it is the opposite, with children requiring treatment for asthma at a higher rate in Arizona than the national average. Coal is a significant contributor to this suffering, as it is burned across the state, and in the highest volume at NGS," said Dr. Barbara Warren, a trained community medicine physician and public health expert.

NGS is also a major contributor to haze over 11 national parks and wilderness areas, including Grand Canyon where it obscures the views at Arizona's most significant landmark and a major economic engine for the region.

The EPA is expected to decide in May whether to enforce the Clean Air Act at NGS and require reduced pollution and the industry standard retrofit technology, Selective Catalytic Reduction. This technology significantly reduces the air-fouling nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution that results from burning coal.

Attendees urged the EPA to follow through on its plan to clean up NGS and to stick to its standards and time frames. Arizonans deserve the same pollution protections that other Americans across the country receive when the EPA addresses old coal-fired power plants.

In addition to Sunday being Mother's Day, May is national asthma awareness month, so the message to EPA is timely.

To read the Mother's Day message to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy in English and Spanish, go to [Moms Day Gina McCarthy Letter](#) and [Un Mensaje a la EPA en el Dia de las Madres](#) and see attached.

###