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UTE INDIAN TRIBE FINALIZES NEW AIR RULE TO SUPPORT ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON THE UINTAH AND OURAY RESERVATION

Ft. Duchesne, UT – January 18, 2023

At the end of 2022, the Ute Indian Tribe finalized a new rule with the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) to support energy development and air quality on the Tribe’s Uintah and Ouray Reservation. EPA published the *Federal Implementation Plan for Managing Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas Sources on Indian Country Lands Within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Utah* in the Federal Register on December 8, 2022. The final regulations will appear as a part of 40 C.F.R. Part 49.

The Ute Indian Tribe worked with EPA and the Tribe’s partners in the oil and gas industry for almost 10 years to develop a final rule that would support the Tribe’s sovereignty and self-determination, energy and economic development, and, most importantly, air quality on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The final rule will apply to emissions from oil and gas development within Indian Country on the Tribe’s Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

The Business Committee stated, “We appreciate the efforts of EPA to finally complete this new air quality rule. The rule will provide certainty for energy development, streamline permitting, and improve air quality on the Reservation. We are thankful for the support of our partners in the oil and gas industry in developing this rule.”

The Tribe looks forward to close coordination with EPA and the Tribe’s oil and gas industry partners in the implementation of the new air rule. The Tribe plans to implement the rule in a way that will ensure ongoing energy and economic development operations while also making strides in the improvement of air quality. The Tribe plans to monitor each step along the way while remaining in contact with EPA and the Tribe’s industry partners.

The Tribe utilizes the revenue from oil and gas development as the primary source of funding for its government operations and the services the Tribe provides on the second largest reservation in the United States. The Reservation covers more than 4.5 million acres. The Tribe is a major employer and engine for economic growth in northeastern Utah.

**About the Ute Indian Tribe** - The Ute Indian Tribe resides on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in northeastern Utah. Three bands of Utes comprise the Ute Indian Tribe: the Whiteriver Band, the Uncompahgre Band and the Uintah Band. The Tribe has a membership of more than three thousand individuals, with over half living on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The Ute Indian Tribe operates its own tribal government and oversees approximately 1.3 million acres of trust land which contains significant oil and gas deposits. The Tribal Business Committee is the governing council of the Tribe.