Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective

- Resident of Black Mesa
- Member of Navajo Nation
- Farmer, Weaver
- Participant in Ceremonies
- Advisor to Water Rights Task Force
- Administrator at Pinon Unified School District
- Advocate for Ground Water Protection – N Aquifer since 1999
- Mother
The Gap is widening for the Dine’ (Navajo) of Northeast Arizona

- Central Arizona Farmer - $41 per Acre/foot of CAP water for irrigation.
- Peabody Coal Company - $471 per Acre/foot of pristine groundwater for industrial use.
- Glendale Resident - $551 per Acre/foot of CAP water for municipal use.
- Black Mesa Resident - $3258 per Acre/foot; that’s .01 cents a gallon for pristine groundwater but does not include the cost of hauling the water.
- Kaibito Resident (Community near Lake Powell and NGS) - $13,000 per Acre/foot, that’s .04 cents a gallon for municipal use not including the cost of hauling.
Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective

• 2 Contributions of the Navajo Nation to AZ demands for Water and Energy
  – Glenn Canyon Damn
    • Authorized in 1959
  – Navajo Generating Station (NGS)
    • Construction in 1970
Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective

– Navajo Generating Station (NGS)
  • Operational in 1971
  • Required Navajos to waive 50,000 acre feet of water from the upper basin CR for 50 years or life of NGS
  • Tens of millions of tons of coal combustion waste (CCW) is being disposed of insufficiently and pose problem for drinking water sources
Closing the Gap - AZ Perspective
Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective

• In addition:

• The Coal dedicated to Coal-fired Power Plant is mined on Black Mesa by Peabody Coal Company
  – More than 1.3 billion gallons of potable water annually was pumped from 1969 to 2005.
  – Water used as transportation
  – Since Peabody has began using water for mining purposes water levels have decreased by more than 100 ft. in some wells and springs have slacked by more than 50%.
Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective

• As a Result:
  – Signs of Earth Fissures
  – Loss of Springs and Seeps
  – Industrial waste and contamination
Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective
Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective

• Solutions:
  – Renewable Energy
  – Green Projects
  – Sustainable practices
  – Protective Laws
Closing the Gap- AZ Perspective

• Environment
• People