

**Republican Perspective**  
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by Ed Manning

**Navajo Nation Feeling EPA's Love**

*"The liberal Left can be as rigid and destructive as any force of American life." Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (Democrat), 1967*

What is the penalty when a federal agency in charge of protecting the environment routinely desecrates it? The key word is "federal," because if you are an employee or head of a federal agency, accountability to taxpayers is not on your performance review. A glaring example occurred on August 5th when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "accidentally" released 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater from the Gold Key Mine into Colorado's Animas River turning it a toxic orange.

Given that the EPA is the "tip of the spear" in leading Obama's full throttled assault on industrial America, you would think this gang of unaccountables were experts on environmental clean-up.

It seems they are just as likely to cause environmental havoc as the likes of energy companies. The difference being is that private companies are accountable and individuals get fired. The EPA has no problem in taking civil and criminal actions against industry. Duke Energy just forked over \$102M for its coal-ash spill.

The Clean Water Act and environmental rules exempt federal agencies from legal liability but this protection is voided for negligence. So those damaged by the spill will have to hire lawyers to argue their case.

What is disturbing about the EPA is its arrogance. It did not tell surrounding or downstream communities about its toxic spill for 24 hours. It took weeks of prodding before it released documents surrounding the spill. Our President would not comment or visit the spill in contrast to his outrage on previous private sector environmental incidents.

The House Science, Space and Technology Committee held a hearing and requested the EPA's documents concerning its clean-up efforts. The EPA, taking a cue from the IRS, did not provide one single document. Congressional representatives from both Colorado and New Mexico blasted the agency for its non-responsiveness.

Democrats and Obama like to portray themselves as friends of the low and middle-class. Don't tell that to members of the New Mexico Navajo Nation. The Navajo Farming Authority had to shut off public water intakes and canals, leaving hundreds of Navajo farmers driving long distances to get water for their crops. Imagine the green house gas emissions generated from all those gasoline and diesel trucks!

The Navajos said it is difficult to trust the EPA when they spent much of their time handing out forms to farmers essentially waiving their right to sue the agency for future damages. But give the EPA some credit. They delivered truckloads of water to the Navajo's for livestock and agriculture use. The only problem, the water was delivered in tanks that previously stored oil! Big government and central planning brought to you by your friendly Democratic Executive branch.

Navajo Nation officials are fuming. "This is totally unacceptable. How can anybody give water from a tank like this that was clearly an oil tank and expect us to drink it, our animals to drink it? And to contaminate our soil with this?" said Navajo Nation President, Mr. Russell Begaye. "It's just wrong. Clearly, it's wrong."

Yes, Mr. Begaye it is wrong. But you don't get it. The EPA "feels" they are doing the right thing and that is all that matters to progressives.

Here is a suggestion for progressive environmentalists. Get your environmental hero Tom Steyer and the Sierra Club to hire Leftie rock bands to hold a fund raising concert for the communities impacted by EPA's incompetence. Call it "Toxic Rocks the River" and then promote it as the environmental community's response to help clean-up the Animas.