

UNITED STATES ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR ERROR IN FORECASTING THE ISSUANCE OF FINAL EIS ON OAK FLAT

NEWS RELEASE May 18, 2023

The United States filed a <u>letter</u> with the Ninth Circuit tonight in *Apache Stronghold v. United States* taking back its attorney's statement during oral argument that the United States would issue its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) "this spring" or "early summer." The United States now says it "has not yet identified a timeframe for completing its review."

Dr. Wendsler Nosie Sr. of Apache Stronghold stated, "The Government told the Court tonight that it is delaying its timeline for issuing its Environmental Impact Statement on Oak Flat. The Government didn't offer any reason for its delay or say how long the delay will last. If you want answers for that, you'll have to ask the Government. But one thing is clear: It is illegal, immoral, and wrong for the Government to take away our sacred land and give it to a foreign-owned mining corporation for destruction. We await the Court's decision and thank our thousands of supporters for continuing to pray and speak out for the protection of Oak Flat."