



For Immediate Release

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Navajo Oil and Gas helps offset Utility bills of Families affected by COVID19

FORT DEFIANCE, AZ - The Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company (NNOG) has donated \$50,000 to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) to help individuals who were adversely affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pay their utility bill.

The donation is earmarked for elderly customers enrolled in the Senior Citizen Discount Program and individuals who are registered in the Life-Support program. The funds may also be used to offset utility bills for struggling families who were also impacted by COVID-19.

The NNOG donation comes as the COVID-19 has hit regional communities especially hard and the Navajo Nation has responded with mandatory curfews, weekend lockdowns, and Shelter-in-Place orders for all non-essential employees.

"This donation will answer the prayers of many families. The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges for Navajo families and we are doing our best to assist them. We greatly appreciate our Navajo enterprises who are stepping up to help our Navajo people. The partnership between Navajo Oil and Gas and NTUA is a great way to help many families, said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, commending the partnership of the two tribal enterprises to establish a utility payment program to help offset this current hardship.

NNOG approved the donation after reviewing the entire Navajo Nation impact picture. While healthcare entities were receiving necessary supplies and various charities were delivering food supplies and water for homesteads, NNOG believed that it could provide desperately needed help another way. NNOG Chief Executive Officer James McClure and NNOG Board Chairman Lennard Eltsosie explain that this donation is among several targeted initiatives which can have an immediate impact.

"NNOG recognizes these are difficult times for the Navajo Nation, and hope this donation can bring rest to fears that many of its citizens might have during this crisis. Our partnership with NTUA to assist their elderly customers links to our corporate values," said NNOG CEO James McClure. "NNOG remains to be the 'Premier Native American Energy Company with a focus on developing the helium, oil and gas resources of the Navajo Nation', we remain committed to helping the people of this cherished land with our available resources and community involvement."

NTUA welcomed the donation as it too has been impacted by COVID-19. NTUA has viewed the crisis as a long-term challenge both as a public health concern and an economic hardship matter. The decision to remain open focused on the obligation to maintain and operate multi-utilities throughout the region for the long term.

"This is an incredibly generous gift from our sister enterprise (NNOG). It will ease the burden for many families," NTUA General Manager Walter Haase said, adding that families benefitting will receive a letter highlighting the gift. "

As an essential business, NTUA has implemented a policy of not disconnecting utilities for families affected by COVID-19 who are unable to pay their bills.

"We are doing what we can to help, and are trying to keep our utility business operating for the safety and health of our customers," Haase said. "We also have to make sure we pay our electric, natural gas, and water suppliers and vendors for materials we need to operate our utility systems. We are also working to preserve the 768 jobs we have, especially since the region's unemployment rate increased with the closure of Navajo Generating Station."

NTUA has also received interest from individuals offering to help offset utility bills of families experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID19. If you are interested in helping families, please visit www.ntua.com for more information on the COVID19 Response page.

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