



# **2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects**

## **Progress Report Update #5 for Navajo Nation Leadership**

The Navajo Nation and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) are committed to providing utilities to the homes of Navajo Nation families to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. On August 16, the Navajo Nation (NN) announced the funding it would provide to NTUA to construct utility projects eligible under the United States CARES Act. Congress set December 30, 2020 as the construction deadline. NTUA has mobilized, understanding that NN leadership has entrusted the tribal enterprise to build, extend, and provide essential utility services, especially to those, like the elderly, who are most vulnerable to COVID-19.

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### **NTUA Progress Report Update #5 CARES Act Projects completed as of October 1, 2020 Progression since Sept. 25, 2020**

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#### **NTUA's Off-Grid Solar Program:**

NTUA has received applications from 865 people for the Off-Grid residential solar program. It is an increase of 68 people. To date, NTUA teams conducted 594 Feasibility Study/Site Assessments, an increase of 180 homes. Overall 271 applications are pending in final review for the 3,000 Watt off-grid residential solar unit with an energy efficient refrigerator.

#### **Electric connections and Rights of Way:**

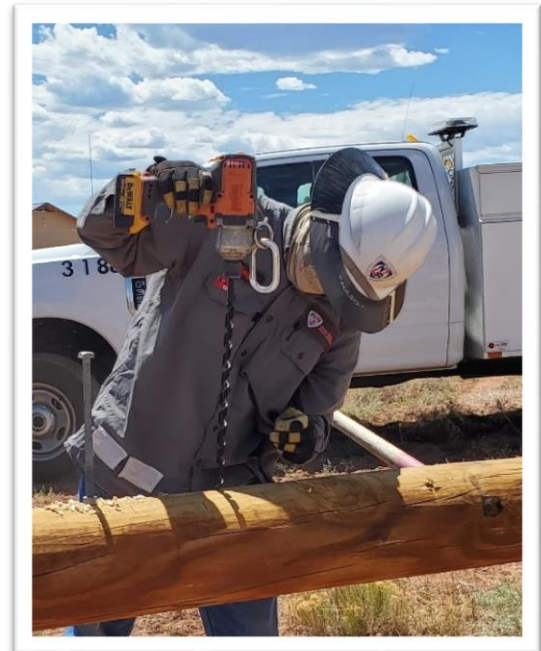
District and ECD electric line crews continue to work 10 hour days, weekends and holidays to extend electricity to homes throughout the region. As a result of their efforts:

**243 families are now connected to the electric grid**

**20 homes more than last week**

**Rights of Way - more families have submitted applications:**

- There are 125 homes requiring Right of Way (ROW).
- The NN Land Department (NLD) has released **41** projects, clearing the way for electric line crews to proceed with construction.



## **Electric Capacity Projects**

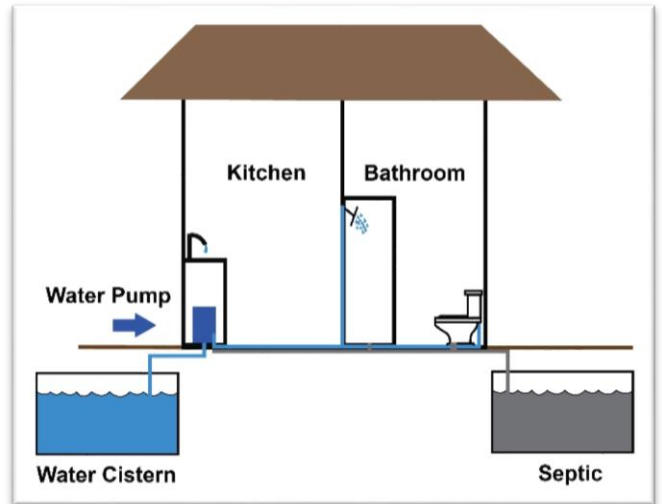
The electric division has completed 16 of the 59 electric capacity projects. There are 7 projects in construction; 7 projects await contractor assignment, some of which include:

- Powerline Conversion
- Substation - Switch/Motor replacement
- Substation - Recloser Installation
- Transformer/Bushing & Pole replacements

## **Water Cistern Project:**

The CARES Act is providing funding for 150 water cistern systems. A cistern water system is used where there is no water available and is used for household for drinking water, kitchens and bathrooms. A cistern water system stores the water needed for a household in a large 1,000 gallon container that can be filled from a watering truck.

NTUA is working with the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) to install the water cisterns and plumbing systems, including building a bathroom addition and plumbing, if necessary. Currently, the combined NTUA/NECA teams are conducting assessment/feasibility visits to the homes of applicants. Construction has begun on bathroom additions.



## **Water/Solar Cistern Units**

Completed feasibility surveys on 106 homes

- 77 families have qualified
  - Will all receive Cistern systems
  - 76 will receive house-wiring
  - 75 homes will receive bathroom additions
    - Construction is underway in 22 homes
  - 2 homes do not need bathroom additions
- 29 homes determined not qualified - did not meet requirements. Homes were either:
  - abandoned
  - not structurally inadequate
  - or non-existent (burned down)



## **Water Loading Stations:**

Renovations and upgrades have been completed to 5 regional watering stations in three Arizona (Bodaway Gap, Leupp, Lupton) and two New Mexico communities (Torreon & Lake Valley). These watering stations are now open for public use. One additional existing station is undergoing repairs in Wide Ruins AZ. Renovations and upgrades are planned for 5 other locations - four in Arizona (Chilchinbeto, Inscription House, Whitecone, Kinlichee) and one in NM (Pueblo Pintado). The designs for these 5 additional stations are in final review with construction beginning in October. Machine installs set to begin Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> for Chilchinbeto, Inscription House, Whitecone, Kinlichee, and Pueblo Pintado.

Construction is nearly complete for the new watering loading station in Crownpoint, NM and the three other new watering stations, in Arizona -- Ft. Defiance, Cameron, Lower Greasewood are on schedule to be completed by mid-October. Fort Defiance Watering Point was installed on September 30, 2020. Lower Greasewood set to be installed on October 7, 2020. Cameron Chapter set to be installed October 9, 2020. Crownpoint station is complete and is the water testing phase before opening.

#### **Water Wells & Upgrades:**

Four off-line-wells are scheduled to be converted to watering loading stations for livestock, so that area residents will not haul water for livestock from potable water sources. There are two in Arizona (Hunter's Point, Chinle) and two in NM (Newcomb, Sheepsprings). Construction set to begin during the month of October and machines are scheduled to begin install on November 9, 2020 to the end of the year. Three well pump replacements for Tsaille, AZ wells have been completed. The contracts for heavy renovations for two major water tanks in Window Rock have been executed. The construction of the Pinon wastewater lagoon is at 35% and on schedule to be completed by Thanksgiving. Engineering services have been procured for renovation of wastewater lift stations in Iyanbito, NM and LeChee, AZ. Lift Station designs are at 90%. A lift station moves wastewater in pipes from a lower elevation to a higher elevation in order to allow the wastewater to flow downhill to a lagoon.

#### **Free Student WI-FI Hotspots:**

32 free Student WI-FI hotspots have been connected in various communities throughout the region. The goal was to place the hotspots so that no one would have more than a thirty-minute drive to access the Internet. This completes the initial target; however, due to increased demand, NTUA and NTUA Wireless are looking into the possibility of installing additional WIFI hotspots. NTUA Wireless has already ordered over \$12 million of the long lead time materials for the 102 new broadband broadcast stations which will deliver high speed internet to homes.

#### **Telecommunications:**

The NTUA fiber optic backbone upgrade from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps remains on schedule to be completed by October 31, 2020. This increase in capacity is necessary to handle the increased internet traffic due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this uplift installation of the 102 Cares Act broadcast stations would not have provided the increase in internet speeds that the Navajo people deserve, especially the students attending school on-line and patients and doctors engaging in telehealth. The Pinedale (NM) tower is constructed and now connected to the internet. NTUA Wireless crews are scheduled to complete the installation of the broadcast stations and testing by October 15th.

#### **Beclabito, Summit East, & Woodsprings Towers:**

Construction crews are awaiting the arrival of ordered equipment and materials to begin building these towers. The land lease is acquired, the engineering completed, and the contracts have been awarded for the tower. The target completion date remains November 30<sup>th</sup>. The installation of backhaul, broadcast stations and testing is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Page to Kaibeto Fiber line:**

Fiber line construction between Tonalea, AZ to Kaibeto, AZ is slated to be completed by Tuesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Once that fiber line is completed, the construction will continue toward Page, AZ. This project is 63 miles total and 58 miles is expected to be completed by Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Electronics installation is scheduled to be completed by 10/31.