



# 2021 PROJECTS UPDATE #1

## NTUA Continues Building, Extending, and Connecting Utilities

With Navajo Nation CARES Act funds, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) completed an unprecedented number of electric connections, water extensions, off-grid residential solar unit placements, and broadband/internet installations work in a mere 4.5 months.

In anticipation of the Navajo Nation allocating funds from its American Rescue Plan Act allocation to NTUA, NTUA continues to identify utility projects to serve the Navajo people. This high-level report provides an update in eight utility categories on the number of identified projects and the current status of those identified projects.

These projects are included within NTUA's 36-month American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA) project listing, which has been provided to the Navajo Nation. To ensure the Navajo Nation's ARPA program is a success, NTUA is advancing projects to shovel ready status, identifying and completing feasibility studies on Navajo family homes, and even constructing certain projects. NTUA is self-funding this work in anticipation of receiving ARPA funding from the Navajo Nation.

Toward the end of this report, there is information for Chapters and Chapter residents on how to apply for new utility construction.

## NTUA Residential Electric Connections



The Project Stage 1 titled Completed Applications are Applications for Light Up Navajo III. When we receive ARPA funds these projects will be automatically converted to ARPA projects. ARPA projects include funding to complete: House wiring, meter loops and service poles. These numbers do not include the projects identified by JMEC, CDEC, SEC, or APS. NTUA's 36-month ARPA request does include funding for projects to be built by JMEC, CDEC, SEC, and APS.

Project Stages		Total No. of Projects
1	Completed Applications	270
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	203
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	119
4	Projects with Approved ROW	114
5	Projects that are in Construction	58
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	47
Total		811

## NTUA Off the Grid Proposed ARPA Solar Projects

300 Solar units were installed and commissioned using CARES Act funding. These solar units were offered to homes when connecting to the electric grid was not feasible because of location, cost, or other determinations. There is a carryover of 701 completed solar applications from NTUA's CARES Act projects. Please note in the chart below "Completed Applications" shows zero because NTUA will begin taking new solar unit applications at the end of June 2021. If applicants already applied during the CARES Act funding, it is not necessary for them to reapply. NTUA is contacting those 701 applicants to update their status as needed.

Project Stage		Total No. of Projects
1	Completed Applications	0
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	573
3	Projects that are Found to be Feasible	127
4	Projects that are in Construction	1
5	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	0
Total		701



## NTUA Residential Water / Wastewater Services

This section describes the two types of residential water/wastewater services that NTUA provides. Section A describes water lines / wastewater systems. The wastewater systems can either be a sewer line extension or a septic system. Section B describes cistern/septic system projects. Please note that NTUA began taking on this work when CARES Act funding became available, and the Indian Health Service said it could not construct water projects before December 30, 2020.

### A. NTUA Residential Water/Wastewater System Projects

1,275 Water applications were received as of May 31, 2021. In the first quarter of 2021, NTUA invited Navajo Nation residents living ½ mile away from the nearest NTUA waterline to apply for waterline extension. Please know that NTUA is constructing waterlines/septic systems to 6 homes with funding provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These services are normally provided by IHS, however because of the time restraint for the CARES Act projects, IHS reported it would not be constructing any projects. NTUA and NECA constructed 30 waterlines/septic systems with CARES Act Funding

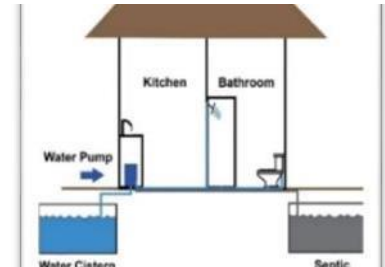
Project Stage		Total No. of Projects
1	Applications under Review	1188
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	55
3	Projects that were Found to be Infeasible	2
4	Projects at the Right of Way Stage	21
5	Projects with Approved ROW*	9
6	Projects that are in Construction	0
7	Projects that are Constructed and in Service	0
Total		1275

\* NTUA has secured grant funding from CDC to construct 6 projects.

## B. NTUA Residential Cistern/Septic System Projects

The CARES Act provided funding for cistern water systems where there is no water available for household water use and the home is located beyond feasible extension of the existing water distribution system. These services are normally provided by IHS, however because of the time restraint for the CARES Act projects, IHS reported it would not be constructing any projects. NTUA and NECA were able to complete 105 cistern/septic systems.

The image to the right shows how a cistern/septic system is designed. These projects not only include the cistern/septic system, but also require drain field, electric, solar, or generator service, in addition they may also require bathroom construction, plumbing, and house-wiring. Funding is required in advance for these projects.



Project Stage		Total No. of Projects
1	IHS or NN Referrals	0
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	66
3	Projects that were Found to be Infeasible	0
4	Projects pending a NN EPA Permit	0
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>66</b>



## NTUA Electric Capacity Proposed ARPA Projects

Capacity projects are required to strengthen the electric system's reliability and increase the electric system's capacity. Enhancing and expanding the electric capacity provides a multitude of benefits to the community members. In addition to serving additional homes that have been connected and will be connected to the electric grid, the enhanced electric capacity is necessary to water, wastewater, and broadband connections. These will help further help to combat the pandemic.

The numbers are projects that are ARPA prepared projects. Additionally, these numbers may change once discussions with JMEC, CDEC, SEC, and APS are finalized.

Project Stages		Total No. of Projects
1	Proposed ARPA Electric Capacity Projects (5/28/2021)	47
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	22
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	21
4	Projects with Approved ROW	0
5	Construction Ready	18
6	Projects that are in Construction	4
7	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	12
Total		124

## NTUA Water Capacity Proposed ARPA Projects

Capacity projects are necessary to strengthen the water system's reliability and are necessary to add additional water services (homes) to the water distribution systems. The numbers are projects that are ARPA prepared projects. Park Estates phase III is a carry-over project from CARES Act projects that we have secured funding from the Wend Foundation so that we can complete this project.

Project Stage		Total No. of Projects
1	Proposed ARPA Projects (5/25/2021)	148
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	62
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	0
4	Projects with Approved ROW	29
6	Projects that are in Construction	4
7	Projects that are Constructed and in Service	13
Total		256

## NTUA Wastewater Capacity Proposed ARPA Projects

Wastewater capacity projects are necessary to strengthen the wastewater system's reliability and create the ability connect additional projects to the wastewater system.

Project Stage		Total No. of Projects
1	Proposed ARPA Wastewater Projects (05/25/21)	316
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	9
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	0
4	Projects with Approved ROW	9
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>334</b>

## NTUA/NTUAW Broadband Proposed ARPA Projects

The Broadband projects include telecommunication fiber optic backbone upgrades, microwave links, new and upgraded towers, new and upgraded broadcast stations, and NTUAW residential connections.

Project Stage		Total No. of Projects
1	Proposed ARPA Broadband Projects (05/27/21)	11205
2	Projects that are in the Engineering Stage	157
3	Projects that are at the ROW Stage	29
4	Projects with Approved ROW	9019
5	Projects that are in Construction	0
6	Projects that are Constructed and In Service	2000
<b>Total</b>		<b>22410</b>

\*This proposal includes operating expenses for Fiber to the Homes and wireless connections to homes

## Information for Navajo Nation Elected Officials to Share with Chapters and Chapter Residents Seeking New Utilities

1. Chapter Powerline Projects: If your Chapter is interested in seeking funding from the ARPA for a chapter powerline project, please refer to NTUA's website under "ARPA Projects" to see if the Chapter's powerline project is already on NTUA's ARPA list. If the proposed projects are not on the list or if your chapter needs further assistance, please contact Arash Moalemi at [arashm@ntua.com](mailto:arashm@ntua.com).
2. Seeking Residential Electric Connection: If community members need residential electric service and believe they are within two miles of an NTUA Electric distribution line, please encourage community members to visit their local NTUA District Office and apply for Light Up Navajo III (LUN III). Please understand it is not guaranteed that the applicant will qualify or receive electric connection through LUN III. If and when NTUA receives ARPA funding, LUN III applications will automatically convert to ARPA funded projects.



3. Seeking Residential Waterline Extensions: If Community members need water service to their homes and they believe they are within ½ mile from an NTUA water line, please encourage community members to visit their local NTUA District Office and apply for the ARPA Water Service Project. Please understand it is not guaranteed that the applicant will qualify or receive water service.
4. Seeking Off-Grid Solar: If community members need residential electric service and cannot be connected to a powerline, they may qualify for an off grid solar unit. Please encourage community members to visit a local NTUA District Office after July 1, 2021 to submit application for an off grid solar unit. The off grid solar program is available in all 110 chapters.

5. Seeking Broadband Service: If a Chapter is seeking additional or expanded Broadband service for their communities, please contact Monroe Keedo at [monroek@ntua.com](mailto:monroek@ntua.com). Mr. Keedo will provide information on existing and proposed new service locations including new towers and fiber optic buildouts.

Community members and small businesses seeking broadband services can contact NTUA/NTUAW for information on new residential and small business services. NTUA/NTUAW also offers Wireless Hotspots free of charge in key locations to assist with combatting the pandemic. Lastly, community members currently enrolled in the Choice Lifeline or Choice Tribal Lifeline plan may also qualify for the NTUA/NTUAW Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. For further information, please call 928-730-2273.

