

2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects Progress Report Update #2 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. NTUA has changed its internal operations to meet the December deadline. Project teams are meeting frequently on every level - Districts to Headquarters - to monitor the progress, identify issues, recommend fixes, and implement changes to ensure that NTUA completes all the funded projects.

This CARES Act - NTUA Progress Update #2 presents a snapshot of what NTUA has completed as of Sept. 9, 2020 and the advancement made since Sept. 2, 2020

NTUA's Off-Grid Solar Program:

NTUA has received applications from 438 people an increase of 138 people for the Off-Grid residential solar program. This week NTUA teams conducted 150 Feasibility Study/Site Assessments. Overall 628 people expressed interest in a 3,000 Watt residential solar unit with an energy efficient refrigerator. This is an increase of 128 inquires.

Electric connections and Capacity Projects:

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 159 families are now connected to the electric grid.

This is an increase of 93 families.

There are 121 homes that still need Right of Way (ROW) clearance. Since the Navajo Nation returned to a full-work force, the NN Land Department (NLD) has released 26 projects, clearing the way for electric line crews to proceed with construction.



There are 6 ROW projects pending. The General Land Development Department and NLD have been very supportive of the CARES Act efforts and have worked judiciously to expedite the approval of ROWs.

This past week the electric division has finished 5 more electric capacity projects for total of 14 of the 59 electric capacity projects, some of which include:

- Transformer bushing (insulation structure) replacement
- Voltage Regulators

- Substation equipment upgrades
- Pole replacements

Telecommunications:

The Pinedale (NM) tower is now connected to the electric grid. NTUA Wireless crews are scheduled to complete the installation of the broadcast stations and will start testing by Oct. 15th.

The NTUA fiber optic backbone upgrade from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps is 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 the 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.

Beclabito, Summit East, & Woodsprings Towers:

The land lease is acquired, the engineering completed, and the contracts have been awarded for the tower materials and build with a target completion date of November 30th. The installation of backhaul, broadcast stations and testing is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 23rd.



Tower - Pinedale, NM

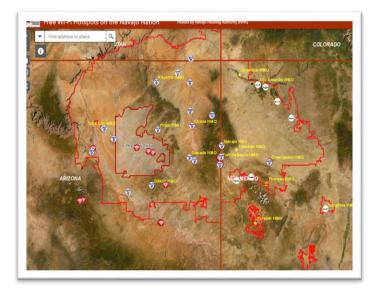
Free Student WI-FI Hotspots:

31 free Student WI-FI hotspots have been connected in various communities throughout the region. 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.

Page to Kaibeto Fiber line:

The ROW is acquired, the engineering design is completed, the make ready is done, and the construction has begun. The fiber installation is schedule to be completed by 9/31 and electronics installation is scheduled to be completed by 10/31.



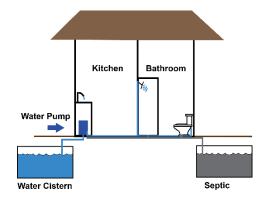
Water Cistern Project:

The CARES Act is providing funding for 150 water cisterns 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 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 if necessary.

Water/Solar Cistern Units

Completed feasibility surveys on 52 homes

- 20 families have electricity
 - Will receive Cistern systems
- 11 Families do not have electricity
 - Will receive Solar units
 - Will receive Cistern systems
- 10 homes were undetermined, no one home or needs more review
- 11 homes were disqualified- did not meet requirements
 - 5 home were abandoned
 - 3 homes were not structurally adequate
 - o 3 homes did not want solar



Watering Stations:

At the start of the pandemic, NTUA repaired five existing potable watering stations as several Arizona Chapters have been repaired in Leupp, Wide Ruins, Lake Valley, Bodaway Gap, and Lupton and are now open for public use. Four new stations in Arizona have been designed and will be in constructed in Ft. Defiance, Cameron, Lower Greasewood, and Cameron communities. Five additional watering stations are entering the design stage.

Water Wells & Upgrades:

Overall, 5 of the 65 proposed projects have been completed, which include:

- In Red Valley, AZ, the replacement of the pump and motor for the Red Valley South Well
- Renovation for the three wells in Tsaile, AZ
- The emergency sewer repair of the by-pass pumping

The construction of the Pinon wastewater lagoon is underway. The contracts for heavy renovations for two major water tanks in Window Rock have been executed. Engineering services have been procured for renovation of wastewater lift stations in Iyanbito, NM and LeChee, AZ.

For more information contact:

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