



2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects

Progress Report Update #3 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 Progress Report Update #3 CARES Act Projects completed as of Sept. 17, 2020 Advancement made since Sept. 9, 2020

NTUA's Off-Grid Solar Program:

NTUA has received applications from 664 people for the Off-Grid residential solar program. It is an increase of 226 people. To date, NTUA teams conducted 233 Feasibility Study/Site Assessments, an increase of 83 homes. Overall 876 people expressed interest in a 3,000 Watt residential solar unit with an energy efficient refrigerator. This is an increase of 248.

Electric connections and Rights of Way Acquisition:

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 187 families are now connected to the electric grid, an increase of 28 homes.

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

- There are 129 homes requiring Right of Way (ROW) clearance. The NN Land Department (NLD) has released 34 projects, clearing the way for electric line crews to proceed with construction.
- There are 13 ROW projects pending. The General Land Development Department and NLD have been very supportive of the CARES Act efforts and are working to expedite the approval of ROWs.



Electric Capacity Projects

The electric division has finished 1 more electric capacity projects for total of 15 of the 59 electric capacity projects, some of which include:

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

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:

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.

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:

Construction continues for approximately 40 miles of fiber from Kaibeto to Page. The fiber installation is still on 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 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.

Water/Solar Cistern Units

Completed feasibility surveys on 58 homes

- 35 families have qualified
 - Will all receive Cistern systems
 - Will all receive house wiring
 - 34 homes will have bathroom additions
 - Construction is underway in 6 homes
- 10 homes were undetermined, no one home or needs more review
- 13 homes were disqualified- did not meet requirements. Homes were either:
 - abandoned
 - not structurally inadequate
 - or non-existent (burned down)



Numerous water containers next to a home applying for a solar/water cistern system

Water Loading Stations:

Renovations and upgrades have been completed to 5 regional watering stations in three Arizona (Bodaway Gap, and Leupp) and two New Mexico communities (Torreon & Lake Valley). These watering stations are now open for public use. Renovations and upgrades are planned for 5 other locations - four in Arizona (Chilchinbeto, Inscription House, Whitecone, Kinlichee) and one in NM (Pueblo Pintado). Construction is still pending for four new watering stations, three in Arizona -- Ft. Defiance, Cameron, Lower Greasewood, and one in Crownpoint, NM.

Final preparations are being made to revitalize four non-potable, off-line-wells watering sites to be used 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).

Water Wells & Upgrades:

The Motors/pumps have been replaced in 24 of 45 water wells throughout the Navajo Nation. Three of 10 planned well renovation projects have been completed (cleaning of the groundwater well casings and to restore capacity levels). There are 10 Bore projects expected to be completed by Dec. 30th - these are replacing exposed water lines extended across a wash. Dropping the waterline below the wash level will avoid a major waterline break which could impact numerous homes. 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 continues. Engineering services have been procured for renovation of wastewater lift stations in Iyanbito, NM and LeChee, AZ.

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