



2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects

Progress Report Update #4 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, 2020, 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 #4 CARES Act Projects completed as of Sept. 24, 2020 Advancement made since Sept. 17, 2020

NTUA's Off-Grid Solar Program:

NTUA has received applications from 797 people for the Off-Grid residential solar program. It is an increase of 133 people. To date, NTUA teams conducted 414 Feasibility Study/Site Assessments, an increase of 181 homes. Overall 376 applications are pending final review for the 3,000 Watt residential solar unit with an energy efficient refrigerator.

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 recent result of their efforts:

223 families are now connected to the electric grid

36 homes more than last week

Rights of Way - more families submitted applications:

- There are 117 homes requiring Right of Way (ROW).
- The NN Land Department (NLD) has released 39 projects, clearing the way for electric line crews to proceed with construction. The General Land Development Department and Navajo Nation Land Department have worked very hard to expedite the release of these ROWs.



Electric Capacity Projects

The electric division has completed 16 of the 59 electric capacity projects, some of which include:

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

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.

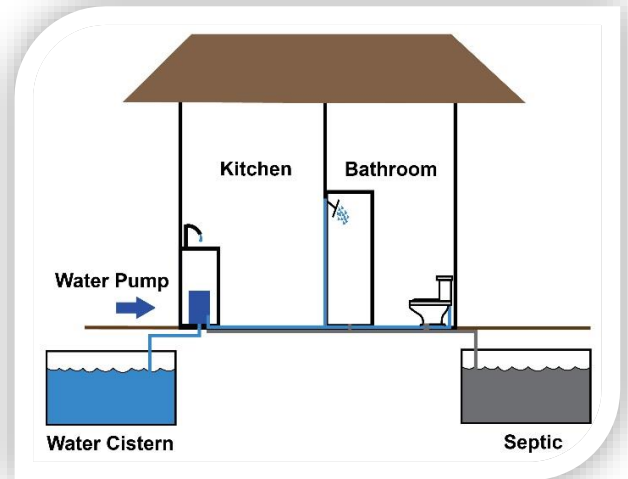
NTUA is working with the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) to install the water cisterns and plumbing systems, including building a bathroom addition and plumbing, if necessary. Currently, the combined NTUA/NECA teams are conducting assessment/feasibility visits to the homes of applicants.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



Water/Solar Cistern Units

Completed feasibility surveys on 76 homes

- 60 families have qualified
 - Will all receive Cistern systems
 - 58 will receive house-wiring
 - 58 homes will receive bathroom additions
 - Construction is underway in 18 homes
 - 2 homes do not need house-wiring or bathroom additions
- 16 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 planned to begin in October.

Construction is nearly complete for the new watering points in Crownpoint, NM. Three other new watering stations in Arizona -- Ft. Defiance, Cameron, Lower Greasewood -- are on schedule to be completed by mid-October.

Water Wells & Upgrades:

Four off-line-wells are scheduled to be converted to watering loading stations for livestock, so that area residents will not have to haul water for livestock from potable water sources. There are two in Arizona (Hunter's Point, Chinle) and two in NM (Newcomb, Sheepsprings). Construction is scheduled to begin in October and continue till the end of the year.

Motors/pumps have been replaced in 30 of 45 targeted water wells located throughout the Navajo Nation. Four (4) of 10 planned well renovation projects have been completed (cleaning of the groundwater well casings and to restore capacity levels). Three well pump replacements for Tsaille, AZ wells have been completed. 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.

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 50%.

Telecommunications:

The NTUA fiber optic backbone upgrade from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps remains on schedule and is expected 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. The uplift installation of the 102 Cares Act broadcast stations would provide the increase in internet speeds that the Navajo people deserve, especially with 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.

Free Student WI-FI Hotspots:

32 free Student WI-FI hotspots have been connected in various communities throughout the region. The goal is to place the hotspots so that parents/students would not 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

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. The target completion date remains November 30th. The installation of backhaul, broadcast stations and testing is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 23rd.

Page to Kaibeto Fiber line:

Fiber line construction between Tonalea, AZ to Kaibeto, AZ is slated to be completed by Tuesday, Sept. 29th. 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. 29th. Electronics installation is scheduled to be completed by 10/31.

