



2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects

Progress Report Update #14 for Navajo Nation Leadership

The Navajo Nation and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) are committed to extending 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 by December 28, 2020. NTUA has mobilized to complete as many projects as possible.

NOTEWORTHY:

NTUA would like to express deep gratitude to the Navajo Nation Naa'bi'k'i'yati' (NABI) Committee for the overwhelming support of Legislation 0306-20 that extends a critical construction deadline for NTUA to complete CARES Act projects from December 15th to December 28th. The NABI committee also graciously included a provision that special projects may be extended to December 30th.

NTUA extends a sincere thank you to NN Resources and Development Chairman Rickie Nez for sponsoring the legislation and Speaker Seth Damon and Delegate Daniel Tso for co-sponsoring. NTUA genuinely appreciates the Navajo Nation Council for supporting this legislation with the understanding that completing these projects for the Navajo people will provide much needed basic utility services to families and the generations forward.

For the past 14 weeks, NTUA has remained focused on extending utilities to families throughout the Navajo Nation and will continue to work hard to build and complete as multi-utility projects as possible to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

NTUA Progress Report Update #14

CARES Act Projects completed as of December 10, 2020

Electric Connections and Rights of Way Acquisition

As the December 28th deadline approaches, NTUA District and Electric Construction Department electric line crews continue to work 10-hour days (including weekends) towards the deadline goal to connect 510 families.

As a result of their efforts:

- 478 families are now connected to the electric grid
- 50 homes more homes than reported in Update #13

Rights of Way - more families submit applications

- 145 homes still require Right of Way (ROW) acquisition
- 166 projects have been released by NN Land Department (NLD) clearing the way for electric line crews to proceed w/construction
- 16 SLA (Service Line Agreements) are pending with NN General Land Development Dept.



NTUA's Off-Grid Residential Solar Program

Field assessment work crews are preparing homes for a 3,000 kW solar unit placement. NTUA will be distributing on the basis of 9 units per each Navajo Nation Council Delegate legislative district and an additional 40 units are designated for the homes of U.S. Military Veterans. These solar units will only be offered to homes currently not connected to the electric grid.



246 Homes feasible to date

- 167 homes need house-wiring
 - 98 homes - house-wiring completed
- 45 homes are awaiting house-wiring affidavit
- 39 homes belong to U.S. Veterans
- 210 homesteads – Solar vendors are working on these sites
 - 128 solar units have been placed at homes - awaiting final stages of construction before being commissioned.

Neighboring Electric Utility Partnerships:

NTUA created partnerships with the neighboring electric service utilities that serve the Navajo Nation to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Some families are living beyond the electric distribution service area of NTUA but in close proximity to a powerline of another electric utility provider.

NTUA reached out to our neighboring electric utility providers, which include Arizona Public Service (APS), Jemez Mountain Electric Co-op (JMEC), Socorro Electric Co-op (SEC), and Continental Divide Electric Co-op to help develop a meaningful solution. This is the first time NTUA has established such a partnership with these neighboring electric utilities. Progress to date:

➢ Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative (JMEC) - 24 planned projects in (NM)

- 15 homes connected - 4 in Counselor; 7 in Nageezi; 1 Huerfano, 3 in Torreon
- 6 homes are in construction - 3 in Huerfano; 2 in Nageezi; 1 in Torreon
- 3 released for construction - 1 in Counselor, 1 in Nageezi; 1 in Torreon

➢ Continental Divide Electric Cooperative (CDEC) 24 planned projects in (NM)

- 18 homes connected - 1 Baahaali, 2 Baca Prewitt; 1 Chichiltah, 3 Churchrock, 1 Littlewater, 1 Red Rock, 1 Smith Lake, 1 Thoreau, 2 Tohajilee', and 5 Tsayatoh.

Photo right: CDEC connecting a home in Baca/Prewitt

- 3 homes under construction - Rock Springs, Thoreau, and Tohajilee'
- 3 awaiting electric affidavits - Baca Prewitt, Churchrock, and Smith Lake

➢ Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC) - 1 home planned in Alamo Bend (NM)

➢ Arizona Public Service (APS) - 8 homes planned projects in (AZ)

- 4 homes are in Tuba City; 4 homes are in Cameron

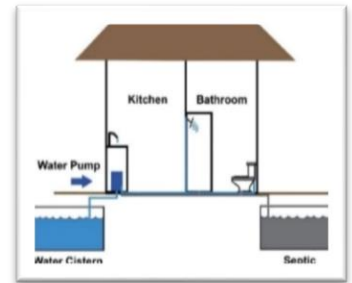


Electric Capacity Projects

The electric division has completed 30 out of the 59 planned projects. There are 15 projects in construction, in Aneth (UT), Red Mesa (UT), Mexican Water (UT), Kinlichee (AZ), Kayenta (AZ), and Shiprock (NM).

Water Cistern Project

The CARES Act is providing funding for cistern water systems where there is no water available and is used for household for drinking water, kitchens and bathrooms. A cistern water system will store 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.



Water/Solar Cistern Units

122 families have qualified:

- 75 bathroom foundations have been completed
- 51 out of 120 cistern systems have been installed
- 54 out of 121 septic systems have been installed
- 61 out of 122 homes have electricity
 - 3 were recently connected by NTUA
- 31 out of 122 homes need a solar unit
- 2 out of 122 will have a generator
- 28 out of 122 will be connected to the electric grid



87 Homes were determined not feasible - did not meet requirements. Homes were either: Abandoned, not structurally adequate or non-existent (burned down).

Water Wells & Water System Upgrades

Pump/motor replacements for 60 of 63 water wells have been completed. Well renovations have been completed on 7 of 20 water well projects. Renovations for three major water tanks are planned. Two are scheduled to be completed on Dec. 15th (Fort Defiance & Sawmill, AZ). The third, in Newcomb NM, is scheduled to be completed on Dec. 23rd.

Construction has started on three new water wells. We are in the final phase of the Thoreau NM well site, which is the installation of the pump and we are 50% complete. The project has a Dec. 15th completion date.

At the Houck, AZ, well site thirty (30%) percent of the drilling/casing has been completed and the project has a Dec. 30th completion date. One hundred (100%) percent of the drilling/casing has been completed on a well Ganado AZ water supply well (pictured to the right). The project is targeted for completion by December 29th.

Construction to replace 27,000 feet of waterline for the Park Estates project near Sanders, (AZ) phase one is thirty 30% complete and phase two is fifty (50%) percent complete.

Three (3) well pump replacements have been completed in Tsaille (AZ).



Water Loading Stations

Repairs and upgrades to 6 regional watering loading stations have been completed. Four are in Arizona (Bodaway Gap, Leupp, Lupton, Wide Ruins) and two are in New Mexico communities (Torreon & Lake Valley). These watering loading stations are now open for public use.

Construction has completed on 6 of the 9 water loading stations which include 5 in AZ: Cameron, Fort Defiance, Greasewood Springs, Kinlichee and Whitecone. One is in Crownpoint NM (AZ). Water Loading Stations in Chilchinbeto (AZ) and in Inscription House (AZ) are scheduled to be completed by Dec. 15th. **Photo right: Kinlichee Water Loading station.**

The Pueblo Pintado (NM) water loading station is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 30th.

NTUA is planning to construct 5 livestock water loading stations. Construction is complete at 4 of them. Two of them are in AZ, Hunters Point and Luepp. Two are in NM, located at Newcomb and Sheepsprings.

The fifth is under construction in Chinle and is expected to be completed by Dec. 15th. These livestock water loading stations were planned so that residents will not haul water for livestock from potable water sources.

NTUA completed 4 of the 10 major water system improvement projects. One projected was completed in Navajo (AZ) and three projects were completed in NM, two in Church Rock and the other in Iyanbito.

The seven planned projects are expected to be completed by Dec. 30th. Two of them are in AZ, Lower Greasewood and Teecnospos. Five are located in NM - two in Ojo Encino, one in Torreon and one in Upper Fruitland.

Ninety five (95%) of the Montezuma Creek, UT arsenic removal water treatment plant has been completed. This project is expected to be completed by Dec. 15th.

Wastewater Facilities Improvements

4,800 feet of the Window Rock (AZ) wastewater trunk line will be renovated. Construction began on November 30 and run through December 23.

The construction of the Pinon (AZ) wastewater lagoon is 90% complete. Construction is scheduled to be completed by December 15th.

Free Student WI-FI Hotspots

NTUA is planning to construct 43 free Student WI-FI hotspots. 39 have been connected in various communities throughout the Navajo Nation. The goal was to place the hotspots so that no one would have more than a 45-minute drive to access the Internet.

The initial CARES Act target was 31 locations; however, due to increased demand, NTUA and NTUA Wireless will install additional WI-FI hotspots. The latest in-service hotspots are at Bodaway/Gap (AZ), KinDa'Lichii (AZ). 2 sites are under construction and are planned to be in-service by Dec. 15th. They are located in Leupp (AZ), and Oaksprings (AZ). We have two locations to TBD.



Telecommunications/Broadband

The upgrade of NTUA fiber optic backbone from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps will be completed by Dec. 15th. This boost in capacity is necessary to handle the increased internet traffic due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Without the upgrade to fiber optic backbone, NTUA would not be able to support the new 102 CARES Act broadcast stations. These broadcast stations provide improved internet speeds that the Navajo people deserve, especially the students attending school on-line, employees working remotely from home, and patients and doctors engaging in telehealth.

Of the 102 broadcast stations, 98 are uplifts and four (4) are brand new sites:

- 46 of 102 sites are in-service
- 36 more are scheduled to be in-service by Dec. 15th for a total of 82 broadcast stations
- 4 of the 102 sites cannot be installed because the tower is not structural strong enough to support the additional equipment

Multi-segmented Fiber Project - Tuba City (TC)

- The primary backbone fiber construction from TC Tower to Pasture Canyon is nearly complete. NTUA received the notice to proceed with construction from the Hopi Tribe and immediately informed NTUA contractors to complete the remaining fiber optic construction.
- In addition to acquiring Hopi approval, NTUA received all the requisite authorizations from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to commence with providing connectivity to the following anchor institutions. The following sites shall be complete prior to December 15th.
 - Tuba City Jr. High School
 - Tuba City Primary Elementary School
 - Tuba City High School
 - Tuba City Grey Hills Academy
 - Tuba City Regional Hospital
 - Tuba City Plaza
- NTUA has received the notice to proceed with construction for the Tuba City Primary Boarding School. The Boarding School will have connectivity before December 30, 2020.

Pinedale, Beclabito, Summit East, and Woodsprings Towers

Tower construction at the Beclabito (NM) is delayed because of terrain. As crews were drilling the tower foundation, they encountered volcanic rock and it changed our original scheduled. The new target date for completion is January 31st. The installation of the backhaul/broadcast station is now set for February 28th. The remaining towers including Pinedale, Summit East, and Woodsprings are complete with respects to tower construction. The Pinedale tower is fully operational and online. Summit East and Woodsprings have microwave equipment being installed and are in the final phase of testing. These sites will be fully operational by Monday, Dec. 14th.

Kaibeto to Page Fiber line

The fiber line from Tonalea to Navajo Generating Station (outside Page, AZ) has been completed. Work is concentrating on the final installation of the electronics and shelters. NTUA is installing the final electronics over the weekend (December 12-13). The entire project shall be completed prior to December 15, 2020. Once finished, area residents will notice enhanced services for mobile phones or broadband towers to provide the data needed for distance learning.

For more information contact:
Walter W. Haase, P.E., General Manager, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
(928) 729-6202; generalmanager@ntua.com

