



2020 CARES Act

Progress Report Update #25 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, 2020, the Navajo Nation (NN) President signed into law CJY-62-20 allocating CARES Act funding to NTUA to construct utility projects eligible under the United States CARES Act by December 28, 2020 with special projects having a completion date of December 30th.

For more than 20 weeks, NTUA focused on CARES Act projects, collaborating with the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice-President (OPVP), the Navajo Nation Council, and Navajo Nation Division and Departments to build and extend utility services to as many homes as possible to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The NN leadership approved \$147,116,561 in 2020 CARES Act funding for NTUA. On March 10th, NTUA returned \$35,866,719 to the Navajo Nation, this is in addition to the \$34 million that was returned on January 19th. These funds were returned with the understanding that they would be reverted into the NN Hardship fund to help families.

With approximately \$75 million, NTUA connected 3,100 Navajo homes to the internet, connected 737 families to the electric grid, 300 Navajo families received an off-grid residential solar unit, 105 families received a cistern and septic system, and 30 Navajo families received a waterline and septic system connection to their homes.

Due to the Navajo Nation's construction deadline of December 30, 2020, NTUA could not meet the requests of hundreds of families to receive utility connections of electric, water, wastewater, internet services and solar units to their homes. When Congress changed the deadline to use CARES Act funds to December 30, 2021, many families were hopeful that they would receive life sustaining utility services.

Not a day goes by where NTUA does not receive a request to extend utility services. These requests come from all parts of the Navajo Nation. Over the last three months we have received requests from:

- 497 families to be connected to the electric grid
- 31 families have requested a waterline and septic system connection
- 128 families have requested an off-grid residential solar unit and numerous Chapters have requested installation of a telecommunications tower so that their community members would have access to the internet.



Families especially need help during the pandemic to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Following the December 2020 deadline, projects that started construction, have been encumbered, and/or have been delayed because of COVID-19 circumstances have been completed. NTUA is still completing a few remaining CARES Act funded projects. The following information in Update #25 highlights what has been completed by the CARES Act funding and what is remaining.

NTUA Progress Report Update #25 CARES Act Projects completed as of March 09, 2021

Electric Connections and Land Acquisition

Up until December 30th, NTUA District and Electric Construction Department electric line crews and electricians worked 10-hour days, including weekends, except for Thanksgiving Day, Navajo Nation Family Day and Christmas Day.

NTUA's initial goal was to connect 510 families. We have exceeded this goal by extending electricity to the homes of 211 families.

As a result of efforts by NTUA and Neighboring Utilities:

- 737 families are now connected to the electric grid
 - 683 families by NTUA crews
 - 54 families by neighboring utility crews

- NTUA has completed the Salt Springs South (AZ) project, thereby connecting the last 12 CARES Act funded families.



Electric Connections after CARES Act Deadline

Following the December 30th deadline, NTUA has received 497 applications for electric connections. NTUA will not be able to connect these families under the 2020 CARES Act program; however, NTUA is seeking to find creative solutions to get these families connected. NTUA has identified potential funding sources to connect 67 of these families. NTUA, Kayenta Solar, NTUA Wireless and several outside organizations have agreed to fund the connection of 26 homes. In addition to these 26 homes, NTUA's Kayenta Solar Project will fund the connection of 5 homes in the Kayenta Chapter.

The Navajo Nation Council's Resources and Development Committee (RDC) has approved the use of funds that NTUA saved on the construction of two (2) Sihasin powerline projects - which will allow electric line crews to connect an additional 10 homes.

NTUA has used other funding sources to connect dozens of families that were to be connected under the Navajo Nation's Sihasin powerline projects planned for construction in 2021. NTUA will be requesting permission from Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council to use those savings to connect an additional 26 families.

Families that are seeking funds to get connected are being encouraged to submit a Light Up Navajo III application as soon as possible. NTUA hopes to host another Light Up Navajo initiative in April 2022.

In addition, Jemez Mountains Electric Co-op has identified 19 families since December 30th: 4 in Nageezi, 6 in Counselor, 1 in Ojo Encino, 5 in Pueblo Pintado, 3 in Torreon. Arizona Public Service has identified 14 families: 9 in Tuba City and 5 in Cameron.

Continental Divide Electric Co-op is identifying families as well and has reported they have 8 families whose projects are shovel ready: 2 in Ramah, 3 in Tsayatoh, 1 in Baca/Prewitt, 1 in Red Rock, 1 in Manuelito, and 1 in Churchrock.

All neighboring utilities are reporting that they will continue to identify families and get them shovel ready in anticipation of additional funding.

Neighboring Electric Utility Partnerships

NTUA created partnerships with the neighboring electric utilities that serve homes on the Navajo Nation to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These families are living beyond the reach of NTUA's electric distribution system but are in close proximity to a powerline of another electric utility provider.

NTUA reached out to neighboring electric utility providers, which include Arizona Public Service (APS), Continental Divide Electric Cooperative (CDEC), Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative (JMEC), and Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC), to develop a meaningful solution for these families. As a result, these companies identified homes they were able to connect.

This is the first time NTUA has established this type of partnership with these neighboring electric utilities.

- **Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative (JMEC)**
24 planned projects in (NM) - all projects completed
 - 24 homes connected - 6 in Counselor; 3 Huerfano; 9 in Nageezi, 6 in Torreon
- **Continental Divide Electric Cooperative (CDEC)**
24 planned projects in (NM) - all projects completed
 - 24 homes connected - 1 Baahaali, 3 Baca Prewitt;
 - 1 Chichiltah, 4 Churchrock, 1 Littlewater, 1 Red Rock
 - 1 Rock Springs, 2 Smith Lake, 2 Thoreau, 3 Tohajilee', and 5 Tsayatoh
- **Arizona Public Service (APS) - 5 homes connected in (AZ)**
 - 2 homes connected in Tuba City; 3 homes connected in Cameron
- **Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC) - 1 home in Alamo Bend (N**

NTUA's Off-Grid Residential Solar Program

Work crews are preparing homes for a 3,000-kW solar unit placement. NTUA will be distributing 300 units, 40 units are designated for the homes of U.S. Military Veterans and 23 units are assigned for the Water Cistern Projects as described below.

These solar units were only offered to homes that are not connected to the electric grid. All of these projects were encumbered, under construction and/or delayed as a result of COVID-19 issues. We expect to have all of the units commissioned by the end of March.



Cont'd NTUA's Off-Grid Residential Solar Program

Of the 300 homes:

- 202 homes needed house-wiring
 - 13 homes have house-wiring under construction
 - 189 homes have house-wiring completed
- 98 homes do not need house-wiring
- 96 homes - have a house-wiring affidavit
 - 2 homes - await a house-wiring affidavit
- 40 homes belong to U.S. Veterans
- 300 homes have been released to the Solar vendors
 - 6 homes solar units are under construction
- 294 homes solar units are operating

Electric Capacity Projects:

NTUA's electric division completed 133 out of 151 electric capacity projects. 117 were completed by December 30th deadline and 16 were encumbered, under construction and/or delayed as a result of COVID-19 issues. The 16 encumbered projects were all completed by the end of February.

The remaining eighteen (18) projects we will require alternative funding sources.

These capacity projects are strengthening system reliability and adding capacity to the electric system which is needed to provide additional services to newly connected homes and to help prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19.



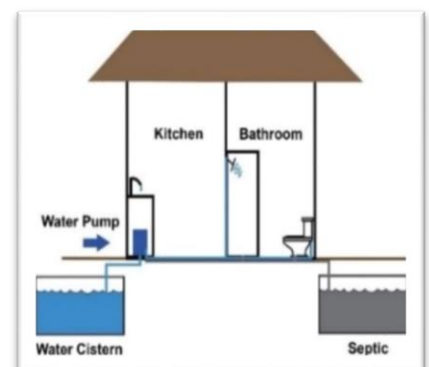
Water Cistern and Septic Projects:

The CARES Act is providing funding for cistern water systems where there is no water available for household 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 refilled.

NTUA is working with the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) to install the water cisterns, septic tanks, a power system, including building a bathroom addition and plumbing, if necessary.

All 105 Water Cistern and Septic projects have been started, encumbered, and delayed by COVID-19 impacts.

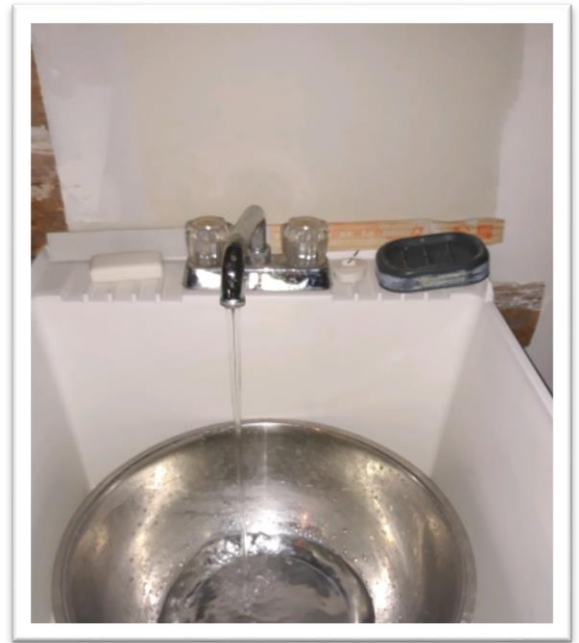
It would be unfair to these families if we started construction on their homes and did not finish the work.



Cont'd Water Cistern and Septic Projects:

105 Families have qualified:

- 105 Projects out of 105 have been completed
- 82 out of 82-bathroom additions have been completed
 - 105 out of 105 cistern systems have been installed
 - 100 out of 100 septic systems have been installed
 - 71 out of 105 homes receive electricity from NTUA
 - 51 were already connected to NTUA system
 - 20 were recently connected by NTUA crews
- 23 out of 105 homes need a solar unit
 - 23 Solar units with back-up generator are in operation
- 11 out of 105 homes will be powered by generator
 - 11 generators have been installed



Water Line Connections and Septic installations to Homes

NTUA has completed thirty (30) water line connections and twenty-eight (28) septic systems. Two (2) homes already had existing septic systems. Twenty-seven were completed before December 30th and three (3) additional homes, which were under construction but been delayed by the impacts of COVID-19 were recently completed; two on January 8th and one on January 5th.

We are completing feasibility visits on an additional forty-five (45) homes in need of systems. We will not be able to connect them under CARES Act program; however, NTUA is seeking to find creative solutions to get these families connected. The field assessments are continuing. NTUA teams are working on cultural resources and biological resources clearances for homes that are less than 1,500 feet from an existing water line.

Water Wells & Water System Upgrades

Pump/motor replacements for 64 of 64 targeted water wells have been completed. Well renovations have been completed on 10 of 20 targeted water well renovation projects. Three (3) well pump replacements have been completed in Tsaile (AZ).

Renovations for one (1) of the three (3) major water tanks have been completed. The Newcomb (NM) tank renovation was completed on Dec. 27th. The completion of the two (2) remaining water tanks - the Fort Defiance (AZ) Slick Rock "A" and the Window Rock (AZ) "H" tanks -- will be not completed until April of 2021 due to weather conditions and therefore will not be eligible for CARES Act funding.

Construction of all three (3) new water wells has been completed. The Houck (AZ) well site was placed on-line and completed on December 30th. The Ganado (AZ) and the Thoreau Sonsela (NM) wells were completed on December 22nd but will need to have Pump Houses constructed before they can be placed on-line.

Cont'd Water Wells & Water System Upgrades

Construction to replace 27,000 feet of waterline for the Park Estates project near Sanders (AZ) Phase I & II have been completed. Phase III is approximately 8,100 feet of line is under construction, encumber and delayed to COVID-19 issues. All 6" piping is installed on the project, and service lines are currently being installed. Phase III was completed on February 28th.

Water Loading Stations/Major Water System Improvement projects

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 (Torreon & Lake Valley). These watering loading stations are now open for public use.

Construction is complete on all 9 of new water loading stations which include 7 in AZ: Cameron, Fort Defiance, Greasewood Springs, Kinlichee, Whitecone, Chilchinbeto and Inscription House, and two (2) NM stations: Crownpoint and Pueblo Pintado. All other sites are currently open to the public or are being advertised for opening; however, the punch-list items are currently being addressed at the Crownpoint, Pueblo Pintado and Lower Greasewood sites.

NTUA has constructed 5 livestock water loading stations. Construction is complete on all 5. Three are in AZ, located in Hunters Point, Leupp, and Chinle. Two are in NM, located at Newcomb and Sheepsprings. These livestock water loading stations were constructed so that residents will not haul water for livestock from potable water sources.

NTUA has completed 11 of the 13 major water system improvement projects. The remaining two projects will not be funded under the CARES Act funding. These projects are located in Ojo Encino (NM) and Teec Nos Pos (NM).

Three projects were completed in AZ: Chinle, Kinlichee and Navajo; six projects were completed in NM, two in Church Rock, one in Iyanbito, two in Ojo Encino, and one in Torreon. One in Mexican Hat (UT) was also completed.

The Montezuma Creek (UT) arsenic removal water treatment plant has been completed and commissioned.

Wastewater Facilities Improvement

4,800 feet of the Window Rock (AZ) wastewater trunk line will be renovated. Phase I of this project has been completed. Phase II did experience delays due to COVID-19 issues, but the project was completed on January 9th.

The Pinon (AZ) wastewater lagoon was commissioned on December 15th. The two Shiprock wastewater lift station motors were replaced.

Free Student WI-FI Hotspots

Forty-two (42) hotspots 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 NTUAW installed additional hotspots. LeChee (AZ) and Oaksprings (AZ) were the last two sites installed.

Telecommunications/Broadband

The upgrade of NTUA fiber optic backbone from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps was placed in service. 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/teachers attending school on-line, employees working remotely from home, and patients/doctors engaging in telehealth.

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

- 85 of 102 sites are in-service
- 4 of the 102 sites cannot be installed because the tower is not structurally strong enough to support the additional equipment

Pinedale, Beclabito, Summit East & Woodsprings Towers

Construction is complete on all four towers:

- Pinedale (NM) was completed on September 18, 2020
- Summit East (AZ) was completed on December 15, 2020
- Woodsprings (AZ) was completed on December 15, 2020
- Beclabito (NM) was completed on February 15, 2021

Multi-segmented Fiber Project - Tuba City (TC)

The following sites in Tuba City (AZ) are complete and fully operational:

- TC Tower was completed on 12/12/20
- TC High School was completed on 12/24/20
- TC Grey Hills Academy was completed on 12/28/20
- TC Plaza was completed on 12/29/20
- TC Jr. High School was completed on 1/7/21
- TC Primary Elementary School was completed on 1/7/21
- TC Regional Hospital was completed on 1/7/21
- TC Primary Boarding School was completed 1/28/21

Kaibeto to Page Fiber line

The fiber line from Tonalea (AZ) to Navajo Generating Station (outside Page, AZ) has been completed. Electronics and shelters are operational and the final cross-connect at the splice point was completed on January 29th. Area residents are experiencing enhanced services for mobile phones or broadband towers to provide the data needed for distance learning.

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