

**2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects** 

# **Progress Report Update #8 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 30. NTUA has mobilized, to build, extend, and provide essential utility services to families throughout the Navajo region.

# NN Legislation CJY-67-20 Project Listing NTUA Award

		Amount
	Amount Awarded	Received
NTUA Waste/Wastewater	\$18,635,000	\$0
NTUA Powerline Projects	\$13,897,562	\$10,719,847.88
NTUA Capacity Projects	\$24,747,269	\$19,179,133.48
NTUA Sandsprings South	\$850,000	\$658,750
NTUA Broadband	\$32,848,207	\$17,147,243.65
NTUA Off Grid Solar	\$35,192,000	\$33,200,000
NTUA/NECA Cistern Systems	\$20,946,523	\$0
Total	\$147,116,561	\$80,904,975

The chart shows CARES Act funding that was awarded to NTUA through Legislation CJY-67-20 and what has been transferred to NTUA to date.

NTUA thanks our many Congressional representatives for passing the 2020 CARES Act. NTUA also thanks the Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the President/Vice-President for awarding NTUA significant dollars to combat COVID-19. Finally, NTUA extends thanks to the Navajo Nation Office of the President/Vice President, the Office of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Nation Council, and the Office of the Controller for the support to allow us to continue prioritizing the CARES Act goals.

NTUA is honored by the confidence that the Navajo Nation leadership has entrusted in us. Extending and connecting life essential utilities to families throughout the region is always important and now perhaps more important than ever to combat the spread of COVID-19. We are working hard daily to meet the Nation's expectations. Ahéhee'.

# NTUA Progress Report Update #8 CARES Act Projects completed as of October 22, 2020

# NTUA's Off-Grid Residential Solar Program

NTUA has processed applications from 1,073 people for the Off-Grid residential solar program. To date, NTUA teams conducted 971 Feasibility Study/Site Assessments. Of those, 220 were found to be feasible, 359 non-feasible, and the remaining 392 are still under review.

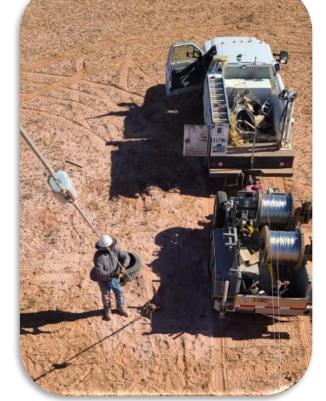
# Electric Connections and Rights of Way Acquisition

NTUA District and ECD electric line crews continue to work 10 hour days. Various crews are building powerlines on weekends and holidays. As a result of their efforts:

- 292 families are now connected to the electric grid
- 13 homes more than last week

# **Rights of Way - families submitting**

- 156 homes still require Right of Way (ROW) acquisition.
- 65 projects have been released by NN Land Department (NLD) clearing the way for electric line crews to proceed with construction.
- 21 SLA (Service Line Agreements) and 1 ROW project is pending with General Land Development Department.



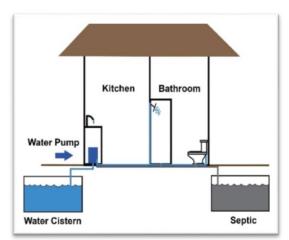
# Electric Capacity Projects

The electric division has completed 23 out of the 59 planned projects. There are 13 projects in construction, including Cudei (NM), Chinle (AZ), Kayenta (AZ), Shiprock (NM), Tuba City (AZ), Oljato (AZ), and Aneth (UT). Seven (7) projects await contractor assignment. These projects include: Powerline conversion; substation - switch/moto replacement, recloser/switch installations; and transformer/bushing & pole replacement.

# 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 209 homes

- 124 families have qualified
  - Will all receive Cistern systems
  - 81 will receive house-wiring
  - 78 homes will receive bathroom additions
    - Construction is underway in 37 homes
  - 4 homes do not need housewiring
  - 3 homes do not need bathroom additions
- 85 homes determined not qualified did not meet requirements. Homes were either:
  - $\circ$  abandoned
  - not structurally inadequate
  - o or non-existent (burned down)
- 75 homes do not need a solar unit. These homes are connected or will be connected to the electric grid.

# Water Loading Stations

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



### Cont'd Water Loading Stations

Water Machine installs are set to begin Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. Materials have been ordered for all sites and the machines for all sites are being built by Aquaflow (water machine contractor).

The Fort Defiance (AZ) water loading station is completed and is open for public use. Three additional watering stations are on schedule to be completed by end of October and expected to be open for public use in early November. Two are located in Arizona (Cameron, Lower Greasewood) and one is in Crownpoint, NM.

Renovations and upgrades are planned for 6 other water loading stations - four are in Arizona (Chilchinbeto, Inscription House, Whitecone, Kinlichee) and two are in NM (Pueblo Pintado, Lake Valley). Construction began in mid-October and will continue through early November.

Construction has also started for one of four off-line wells to become water loading stations for livestock. These livestock water loading stations were planned so that residents will not haul water for livestock from potable water sources. Currently, construction is underway on the off-line well in Hunter's Point (AZ). The three other off-line wells are in Chinle, (AZ) and two in NM (Newcomb, Sheepsprings). Work on these livestock water loading stations is scheduled to be completed by December 25th.

#### Water Wells & Water System Upgrades

Pump/motor replacements for 39 of the 51 wells have been completed. The contracts for heavy renovations for two major water tanks in Window Rock have been executed as were contracts for engineering services for three new water wells to allow residential and commercial growth in Houck (AZ), Ganado (AZ), and Thoreau (NM).

Park Estates, near Sanders, (AZ) is scheduled to have 27,000 feet of waterline replaced. NECA will be providing construction services and has subcontracted Canyon Construction to assist. NECA has acquired 6,000 feet of pipe and is in the process of staging materials and equipment on site. Digging is expected to begin on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Wastewater Facilities Improvements

Engineering services have been procured for renovation of wastewater lift stations in Iyanbito (NM) and LeChee, (AZ). A lift station moves wastewater in pipes from a lower elevation to a higher elevation in order to allow the wastewater to flow downhill to a lagoon.

4,800 feet of the Window Rock (AZ) wastewater trunk line will be replaced. Construction will start in November and run through mid-December. In addition, the construction of the Pinon (AZ) wastewater lagoon is on schedule to be completed by Thanksgiving.

#### Free Student WI-FI Hotspots

34 free Student WI-FI 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. This initial CARES Act target was 31 locations; however, due to increased demand, NTUA and NTUA Wireless is looking to install an additional 9 WIFI hotspots. Some of the locations include: Bodaway Gap (AZ), KinDaLichii, (AZ) and Oak Springs (AZ).

NTUA Wireless has already ordered over \$12.9 million of the long lead time materials for the 102 new broadband broadcast stations which will deliver high speed internet to homes.

### **Telecommunications/Broadband**

The upgrade of NTUA fiber optic backbone from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps remains on schedule. This increase 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. The broadcast stations provide an increase in internet speeds that the Navajo people deserve, especially the students attending school on-line and patients and doctors engaging in telehealth.

Of the 102 broadcast stations, 98 are uplifts and four are brand new sites (one of which has been already installed on the tower in Pinedale, NM).

#### Pinedale, Beclabito, Summit East, & Woodsprings Towers

The Pinedale (NM) tower is built and is the first tower completed with CARES Act funding and is the first tower to feature the CARES Act broadcast station. The tower is now connected to the internet and providing mobile phone service to the area for the first time. The dedication ceremony was held October 12, 2020.

Electric line crews continue to prepare to build a powerline that will extend to the hill of the proposed tower site in Beclabito (NM). Tower construction crews are awaiting the arrival of ordered equipment and materials to begin building the three remaining towers. The target completion date remains November 30<sup>th</sup>. The installation of backhaul, broadcast stations and testing is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Kaibeto to Page Fiber line

The fiber line from Tonalea to Kaibeto and the fiber line from Kaibeto to Navajo Generating Station (outside Page, AZ) have been installed. The fiber to Kaibeto tower is installed, which will enhance fiber and microwave network, including improving services for mobile phones or enable broadband towers to provide the data needed for distance learning. Also the proposed shelter construction near NGS close to completion. The entire project completion is targeted for November 23, 2020.

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