



2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects

Progress Report Update #9 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 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 #9 CARES Act Projects completed as of October 29, 2020

NTUA's Off-Grid Residential Solar Program

NTUA has processed applications from 1,187 people for the Off-Grid residential solar program. To date, NTUA teams conducted 1,090 Feasibility Study/Site Assessments. Of those, 324 were found to be feasible, 477 non-feasible, and the remaining 289 are 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:

- 306 families are now connected to the electric grid
- 14 homes more than last week

Rights of Way - more families submitting

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



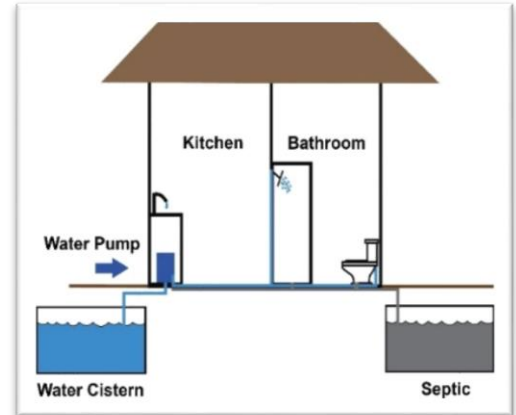
Electric Capacity Projects

The electric division has completed 26 out of the 59 planned projects. There are 11 projects in construction, including Kinlichee (AZ), Kayenta (AZ), Shiprock (NM), and Mexican Water (UT). Thirteen (13) projects are set for construction in November in Fort Defiance (AZ), Crystal (NM), Navajo Mountain (UT), and Chinle (AZ). The work will include: Substation work and 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 209 homes

- 124 families have qualified
 - 38 bathroom foundations have been completed
 - 20 out of 118 septic systems have been installed
 - 45 out of 124 homes have electricity
 - 28 out of 124 homes need a solar unit
 - 33 out of 124 will be connected to the electric grid
 - 18 homes are still under review
- 85 homes determined not feasible - did not meet requirements. Homes were either:
 - Abandoned
 - not structurally adequate
 - or non-existent (burned down)



Water Loading Stations

Renovations and upgrades to 6 regional watering loading stations have been completed. Four are 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.

The new Fort Defiance (AZ) water loading station is completed and is open for public use. Three additional Water loading 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.

Cont'd Water Loading Stations

Renovations and upgrades are planned for 5 other water loading stations - four are in Arizona (Chilchinbeto, Inscription House, Whitecone, Kinlichee) and one in NM (Pueblo Pintado). Construction began in mid-October and will continue through early November. Water Machine installs are set to begin Nov. 9th. Materials have been ordered for all sites and the machines for all sites are being built by Aquaflow (water machine contractor).

Construction has begun 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 and expected to be completed by mid-November for the off-line well in Hunter's Point (AZ). The three other off-line wells are in Chinle (AZ), Newcomb (NM) and Sheepsprings (NM). Work on these livestock water loading stations is scheduled to be completed by December 25th.

Water Wells & Water System Upgrades

Pump/motor replacements for 38 of the 51 water wells have been completed. Renovations for two major water tanks in Fort Defiance (AZ) and Sawmill (AZ) are scheduled to be completed by early December. Engineering services for three new water wells are being finalized. These wells will 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. Digging is expected to begin on November 2nd.

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

33 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, including Kaibeto (AZ), Leupp (AZ), Oaksprings (AZ) Bodaway Gap (AZ) and KinDa'Lichii (AZ). Two locations are to TBD.



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. NTUA Wireless 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.

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 (4) are brand new sites. Two of the 102 sites are in-service in Pinedale (NM) and Alamo (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.

Tower construction crews are awaiting the arrival of ordered equipment and materials to begin building the three remaining towers. November 30th remains the target completion date. The installation of backhaul, broadcast stations and testing is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 23rd.

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. The entire project targeted for completion November 23, 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
Phone: (928-729-6202); generalmanager@ntua.com

