



2020 CARES Act - NTUA Projects

Progress Report Update #15

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.

Electric connection goal accomplished:

With this update, NTUA has officially surpassed the original goal of connecting 510 homes to the electric grid. This is a huge achievement for NTUA electric line crews - to extend electricity to over 510 homes in a little over three months. Once the NN CARES Act legislation was passed and approved, teams went to work to build powerlines. Each week, including weekends and holidays, the NTUA crews concentrated on extending electricity to as many homes as possible -- with 510 homes being the primary goal. As of this update, the total connections by NTUA was 541 families!

As of December 16th, the actual number of Navajo homes connected was 579 which includes: NTUA - 541, Continental Divide Electric Cooperative - 22, and Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative - 16.

NTUA also received word from the Navajo Nation that the CARES Act contracts now officially reflect Dec 28th as the deadline date, with a possible extension to December 30th for special projects. NTUA extends a sincere thank you to Navajo Nation Council Naa'bi'iyati' Committee and the Office of the President/Vice-President for supporting and approving the Dec. 28th deadline date. With their authorizations, NTUA will be able to complete the work that it started in helping to combat the spread of COVID-19.

NTUA Progress Report Update #15

CARES Act Projects completed as of December 16, 2020

Electric Connections and Rights of Way Acquisition

As the December 28th deadline approaches, NTUA District and Electric Construction Department line crews will continue to work 10-hour days (including weekends) to connect as many families possible before this deadline. Sixty-three (63) more homes have been connected to the NTUA electric system since Update #14.

Land Acquisition from the Navajo Nation

- 147 homes still need land acquisition
- 169 projects have been released by NN Land Department (NLD) moving these projects closer to construction
- 26 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 300 units, 40 units are designated for the homes of U.S. Military Veterans and 33 units are designated for the Water Cistern Project, described below. These solar units will only be offered to homes currently not connected to the electric grid.



266 Homes feasible to date

- 173 homes need house-wiring
 - 83 homes - house-wiring underway
 - 54 homes - house-wiring completed
- 93 homes are awaiting house-wiring affidavit
- 39 homes belong to U.S. Veterans
- 244 homesteads – Solar vendors are working on these sites
 - 191 solar units have been placed at homes
 - 174 awaiting final stages of construction before solar unit is 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 lines of NTUA but in close proximity to a powerline of another electric utility provider.

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

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

- 16 homes connected - 4 in Counselor; 1 Huerfano; 8 in Nageezi, 3 in Torreon
- 2 homes - connections under construction - 1 Huerfano; 1 Nageezi
- 1 home in progress - 1 Torreon
- 5 homes released for construction - 2 Counselor; 1 Huerfano; 2 Torreon

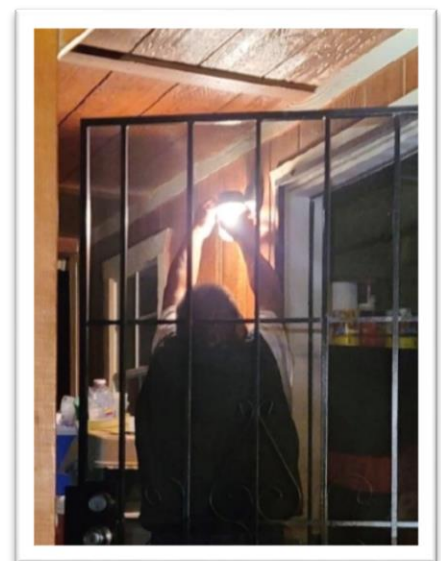
➢ **Continental Divide Electric Cooperative (CDEC) 24 planned projects in NM**

- 22 homes connected - 1 Baahaali, 2 Baca Prewitt; 1 Chichiltah, 3 Churchrock, 1 Littlewater, 1 Red Rock, 1 Rock Springs, 2 Smith Lake, 2 Thoreau, 3 Tohajilee', and 5 Tsayatoh
- 2 awaiting electric affidavits - Baca Prewitt, Churchrock,

➢ **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

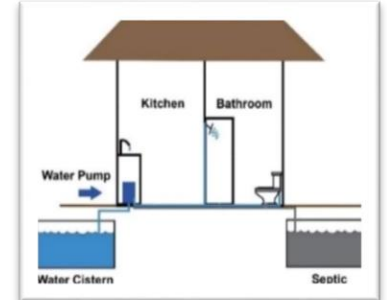


Electric Capacity Projects

The electric division has completed 113 out of 149 planned projects. NTUA has determined that 7 projects will not be finished by December 30th, leaving 29 projects to be finished. 14 projects are in construction and expected to be completed by December 28th and 15 special projects are anticipated to be finished by December 30th. The capacity projects are increasing system reliability and adding electric capacity to help prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19.

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
- 78 out of 120 cistern systems have been installed
- 80 out of 121 septic systems have been installed
- 66 out of 122 homes have electricity
 - 3 were recently connected by NTUA
- 31 out of 122 homes need a solar unit
- 25 out of 33 will have a generator
- 22 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. 23rd (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 95% complete. At the Houck, AZ, well site eighty-five (85%) percent of the drilling/casing has been completed and the project has a December 28th completion date. One hundred (100%) percent of the drilling/casing has been completed on a well Ganado AZ water supply well. The project is targeted for completion by December 28th.

Construction to replace 27,000 feet of waterline for the Park Estates project near Sanders, AZ, phase one is sixty (60%) complete and phase two is seventy (70%) percent complete. Three (3) well pump replacements have been completed in Tsaille, AZ. The project installation of a Well Pump in the Thoreau Baca San Andres Well has an anticipated completion date of December 24th.

Water is now flowing at these NEW community Water Loading Stations



**Kinlichee, AZ
Water Loading Station**



**Inscription House, AZ
Water Loading Station**



**Cameron, AZ
Water Loading Station**



**Whitecone, AZ
Water Loading Station**



**Sheepsprings, NM
Livestock Water Loading Station**



**Chinle South Well
Livestock Water Loading Station**



**Hunter's Point, AZ
Livestock Water Loading Station**

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 has completed on 8 of the 9 new water loading stations which include 5 in AZ: Cameron, Fort Defiance, Greasewood Springs, Kinlichee, Whitecone, Chilchinbeto (AZ) and in Inscription House. Construction is completed at the Crownpoint (NM) station and the Pueblo Pintado (NM) water loading station is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 30th

NTUA has constructed 5 livestock water loading stations. Construction is complete at all of them. 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 planned so that residents will not haul water for livestock from potable water sources.

NTUA has 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.

Cont'd Water Loading Stations/Major Water System Improvement projects

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.

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. Construction began on November 30 and runs through December 23. The construction of the Pinon (AZ) wastewater lagoon is complete.

Free Student WI-FI Hotspots

NTUA is planning to construct four (4) additional free Student WI-FI hotspots. Thirty-nine (39) have been connected in various communities throughout the Navajo Nation, and now the number will increase to 43. 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 installed additional WI-FI hotspots. The latest in-service hotspots are at Bodaway/Gap (AZ), KinDa'Lichii (AZ). Two (2) sites are under construction and are planned to be in-service by December 24th. They are located in Leupp (AZ), and Oaksprings (AZ). The remaining two locations are to be determined.

Telecommunications/Broadband

The upgrade of NTUA fiber optic backbone from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps has been completed. 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:

- 70 of 102 sites are in-service
- 12 more are scheduled to be in-service by Dec. 24th 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

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 18th. The installation of the backhaul/broadcast station is now set for January 30st.

Construction is complete on the Summit East and Woodsprings towers. On December 17th, NN President Jonathan Nez and NN Council Delegate Vince James attended a small ribbon cutting dedication ceremony. The Woodsprings ribbon cutting gathering is set for Dec. 22nd.

The Pinedale tower was completed and commissioned October 12th.



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 are anticipated to be complete prior to December 25th.
 - 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
 - Tuba City Primary Boarding School



Kaibeto to Page Fiber line

The fiber line from Tonalea to Navajo Generating Station (outside Page, AZ) has been completed. The installation of the electronics in the shelter has been completed. The remaining work on the project is scheduled to be completed on December 20, 2020. Once finished, area residents will notice enhanced services for mobile phones and home broadband services.

For more information, contact:

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

