



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15, 2020

**528 families receive electricity as NTUA continues making progress
with water, telecommunications, and solar projects with CARES Act funds**



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has now connected 528 homes to the electric grid using CARES Act funds that the Navajo Nation received to help fight the spread of COVID-19. On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish visited an NTUA work crew near Burnside, Ariz. to thank them for their dedication throughout the pandemic. The crew was in the process of connecting a home for a resident that has lived without electricity for the past 20 years. Many of the NTUA employees have been working 10-hour days, seven days a week, to expedite the completion of the projects.

President Nez has also visited several of the families who received power line connections, bathroom additions, and water cistern systems. NTUA's overall goal is to extend electricity to 510 families by the end of the year. NTUA is also partnering with other utility companies including

Jemez Mountain Electric, Continental Divide, Socorro Electric, and Arizona Public Service, to expand electricity in more communities.

“The projects that NTUA is completing in partnership with NECA and other contractors, will provide long-term benefits for many families for years to come. They are also completing solar panel installations, water cistern systems, waste water systems, broadband and cell phone towers, upgrades and repairs to water loading stations, and expanding public wifi access for students during this COVID-19 pandemic. When we work together, we can accomplish a lot and that’s what we are seeing with these projects led by NTUA. I am very grateful to NTUA, NECA, Division of Community Development, Navajo Land Department, the 24th Navajo Nation Council, and many others who are moving these initiatives forward,” said President Nez.

In August, the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the Nez-Lizer Administration approved \$13.8 million for power line projects, \$24.7 million to increase overall electric grid capacity, \$20.9 million for cisterns systems, \$18.6 million for wastewater systems, and \$32.8 million for wireless and broadband expansion for NTUA from the Navajo Nation’s CARES funds.



Through the collaboration of NTUA, Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, and the Division of Community Development, 75 bathroom additions have been completed, 51 cistern water systems installed, and 54 septic systems installed. NTUA has also upgraded water loading stations in Bodaway/Gap, Leupp, Lupton, Wide Ruins, Torreon, and Lake Valley and constructed new water loading stations in Cameron, Fort Defiance, Greasewood Springs, Kin Dah Lichíí, Whitecone, and Crownpoint. More water stations are being constructed in Chilchinbeto and Inscription House. Pump and motor replacement for 60 water wells have also been completed.

“There is progress being made in many parts of the Navajo Nation and many families and community members are receiving long-term benefits during this pandemic. The collaborations and coordination are amazing, but sadly they do not receive much attention. We are very thankful to everyone involved in moving these projects forward. We are strong and resilient and we will overcome this COVID-19 pandemic together,” stated Vice President Myron Lizer.

NTUA is also working toward the goal of installing 3,000 KW solar unit systems in over 200 homes that were determined to meet feasibility requirements, but some also require house wiring to complete. 40 of the solar units are designated for the homes of Navajo veterans.

"We worked hard to do our part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We wanted to help as many families as possible," said NTUA General Manager Walter Haase. "Today, more families have access to reliable lighting, refrigeration, heating, running water, and cellular/internet communications. The completion of CARES Act projects brought positive change to the lives of so many families who have expressed heartfelt gratitude with tears of joy."

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