*Contact Tobias Sellier, Senior Director of Media Relations and Communications at* *TSellier@PublicPower.org* *or 202-467-2927*

**Navajo Tribal Utility Authority receives national energy innovator award**

**Seattle, Washington, June 20, 2023** — The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority received an American Public Power Association Energy Innovator Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The award honors utilities that have developed or applied creative, energy-efficient techniques and technologies to their work, in order to provide better service to electric customers or projects that increase the efficiency of utility operations or resource efficiency.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority’s Red Mesa Solar project is a 72-megawatt array that sits on 550 acres and will relay power to 18 communities across the Navajo Nation, Utah, and California. When it comes online in late 2023, the new solar capacity will move NTUA and the Navajo nation into a new level of self-sufficiency, providing non-emitting energy generation and having created local jobs. At its peak, the Red Mesa project employed 185 workers, more than 90% of whom were Navajo citizens. The sale of power generated by this project will help fund mutual aid programs, including Light Up Navajo and provide new tax and lease revenue for Navajo government public services. Furthermore, the utility has not implemented an electricity rate increase for 15 years, so the reliable generation and revenue from clean power sales will prove invaluable for maintaining quality electric service at stable rates for residents.

The Red Mesa project has built on earlier solar installation efforts in 2017 and 2019 at the Kayenta facility, which now totals 55 megawatts of solar capacity. Over its lifespan, the Red Mesa project is expected to bring in $6 million in construction-related taxes and $12 million in lease and tax payments for the Navajo Nation, in addition to providing $10 million in construction-related wages for Navajo employees and 50 scholarships and 25 paid internships for members of the Red Mesa community.

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*The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.*