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Navajo Tribal Utility Authority general manager receives American Public Power Association's exceptional leadership award

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 9, 2020 — Walter Haase, general manager of Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) in Fort Defiance, Arizona, received the Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award during the American Public Power Association's Public Power Connect: Virtual Summit & Business Meeting. The award is the highest award granted by APPA. It recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power.

Walter Haase has worked in public power for more than three decades. He has been active with APPA for more than 25 years, serving twice as a board member, and Chair in 2018. Under Wally's leadership, NTUA unveiled the first large-utility scale solar farm on the Navajo Nation in 2017. In 2019, NTUA expanded the project to become the largest renewable energy generating facility owned and operated by a Native American tribe. He helped establish the Navajo Nation's first energy export agreement, and in the fall of 2019, 16 communities in the state of Utah entered into a power purchase agreement with NTUA, marking the first time in Navajo history that an outside community purchased energy generated by a tribal enterprise on tribal land. His achievements also include getting a 550-mile fiber-optic broadband built on the reservation that closed a technology gap in the Southwest and developing the Light Up Navajo initiative, a unique mutual aid project that brought the public power community together to electrify homes in the Navajo Nation. Wherever Wally can, he shares his knowledge, helping to shape the message of public power locally, regionally, and nationally.

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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 93,000 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.

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