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Navajo Tribal Utility Authority receives national achievement award

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 8, 2020 — Navajo Tribal Utility Authority in Fort Defiance, Arizona, received an American Public Power Association (APPA) E.F. Scattergood System Achievement Award during the American Public Power Association's Public Power Connect: Virtual Summit & Business Meeting. This award honors APPA member systems that have enhanced the prestige of public power utilities through sustained achievement and customer service.

Since 1959, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) has worked tirelessly to extend electricity to as many homes on the Navajo Nation as possible. In 2019, NTUA partnered with APPA to create and launch a pilot project to connect the homes of Navajo families to the electric grid. This historic project—called Light Up Navajo—united the public power community for a common cause – extending electricity to families who have been waiting many years.

Twenty-six public power communities from twelve states sent a total of 138 electric line workers to the Navajo Nation to work alongside NTUA linemen. Together, in six weeks, they helped to connect more 200 Navajo families to the electric grid for the very first time. Light Up Navajo was a life-changing project on many different levels. The families witnessed the help of electric crews from across the country, while lineworker visitors applied their skills and expertise to a humanitarian project and witnessed dramatically changed lives. The project will be embedded in many minds and hearts forever.

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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.