

NPU You!



A community newsletter
for the customers of

Norwich Public Utilities

NPU secures \$10 million in federal funding to modernize natural gas infrastructure



On April 12, NPU announced that it has received \$10 million from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

NPU's application proposed the disconnection and abandonment of 10.1 miles higher risk mains and the installation of 9.04 miles of new, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) gas mains over five years.

Per the terms of the application, NPU requested \$21,597,000 for work that could be completed between 2023 and 2027. NPU expects that the funds announced in April will cover a portion of this work.

NPU organized the work into five phases for each year in different sections of the city. Starting later this year, NPU expects to start construction in the North Main Street / Norwich Free Academy Area with

subsequent work along Asylum Street, East Main Street, Taftville, Shipping Street and Laurel Hill to be completed in the coming years.

The process and timeframe for the funding to be released to NPU are being developed. With direction from PHMSA on the timing and logistics, NPU will then develop a schedule for work, engage with contractors, secure materials and supplies, and get started.

"Norwich Public Utilities is grateful to receive this very significant funding from PHMSA and the U.S. Department of Transportation," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "This funding will allow us to improve public safety and reduce leaks across our system, bringing enormous benefit to our community years ahead of schedule".

"We appreciate the continued support and advocacy for NPU by Senators Blumenthal and Murphy, Congressman Courtney and the American Public Gas Association."

NPU continues its support Light Up Navajo Initiative

NORWICH - Two Linemen from NPU spent two weeks in May helping to close the nation's electricity gap by hooking up Indigenous households to the power grid in the Chinle District of the Navajo Nation.

Last year, two NPU Linemen spent two weeks in May in Arizona working to bring electricity to a number of homes for the first time.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) will welcome to the Navajo Nation public

power utility companies from across the United States to participate in the Light Up Navajo IV, a mutual aid project that extends service to Navajo homes without electricity.



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Call Before You Dig reminders



With the nice weather finally here, outdoor home improvement projects, including shrubs and gardens, will be getting more attention. Before you start any outdoor project that requires digging, Call Before You Dig.

Do you know what may be in the ground where you are planning to install a deck, a tree or a new mailbox post? Did you know there could be natural gas pipelines, water lines or electrical wires buried under the surface of your yard?

Don't take chances.

Contact Call Before You Dig at 8-1-1 to ensure that the area you plan to dig is clear of any underground utility. By making one phone call, your local utility company, phone company and cable company will be notified by CBYD and will mark out the locations of any wires or pipelines buried in the area where you plan to work.

For more information about the Call Before You Dig program, visit cbyd.com/homeowners-help or call 811.



If you need assistance paying your utility bills, there are resources available to help. Contact these agencies for more information or assistance:

- Norwich Human Services: 860-823-3778
- TVCCA: 860-889-1365 or visit tvcca.org/energy-assistance
- Operation Fuel: 860-243-2345 or operationfuel.org

A minute with the Mayor:

State and federal funding a great boost for Norwich



Mayor Peter Nystrom

It is no secret that federal and state governments have made unprecedented funding available to states and municipalities over the past few years. Whether it was in response to the economic challenges created by the pandemic or part of the enormous investment in our nation's infrastructure, there are countless opportunities for funding in Hartford and Washington.

With so much money available, competition for funding is fierce. To get significant federal and state funding, any application must be both thorough and clear while being able to withstand scrutiny and analysis over the course of many months.

And so it is worth noting – if not celebrating – the success officials in Norwich have achieved in identifying, pursuing, and securing very

significant funding from federal and state sources for the residents of Norwich.

Although Norwich is a medium-sized city in a small state, given the success that has been achieved through the collaboration and hard work of so many, clearly the Rose City is punching above its weight in securing this critical funding.

Consider the following three examples:

In March, the Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC) was awarded \$11.4 million to support the initial infrastructure build-out at Business Park North. This work will include roadways, pedestrian and bike lanes, bus stops, stormwater management and utility installation. This investment is the next big step forward for a development that will bring new jobs, tax revenues and utility revenues to our city.

In April, Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) was awarded \$10 million from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA – part of the U.S. Department of Transportation) to begin the process of

modernizing up to 10 miles of natural gas mains. This important work is expected to get underway later this year and NPU has committed regular public outreach on the impact and schedule for this work over the next five years.

And in February, Senator Richard Blumenthal announced that NPU had been awarded \$1.6 million in funding to support infrastructure improvements that will reduce the number of untreated sewage discharges into the Shetucket and Thames Rivers. Improving water quality in Norwich helps every community along the Thames River, which will ultimately benefit Long Island Sound for generations to come.

There is an old saying that 'a good project sells itself.' And that has certainly been the case in Norwich lately. We are grateful for the continued advocacy and support from Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Congressman Joe Courtney, as well as State Senator Cathy Osten and State Representatives Kevin Ryan, Derrell Wilson, and Doug Dubitsky.

NPU continues its support Light Up Navajo Initiative

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"NPU is very proud to be a part of this exciting project and to help close America's electricity gap with other municipal power providers from across the country," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "We are proud to have Jeff and Tom share their abilities and expertise to help improve the lives of the members of the Navajo Nation who are living without electricity in their homes for far too long."

NPU sent linemen with only their hand-tools and personal protective equipment. NTUA provided line trucks, tools, and material for the visiting linemen. NPU covered their normal pay and travel (flight, rental car, etc.) and NTUA covered their meals and lodging.

Of the 55,000 homes located on the 27,000-square-mile Navajo Nation (roughly the size of West Virginia), approximately 14,000 homes still do not have electricity. They represent 75 percent of all U.S. households that do not have power.

Electrifying just one household is an expensive – and time consuming – endeavor. Each household, on average, requires one transformer, more than a half-mile of wire, 6-10 poles, as well as insulators and arrestors to connect to the electric grid. NTUA estimates these costs to be more than \$5,000 per home.

Solar power has proven to be ineffective in this area; the strong winds and sand from the desert create issues for solar panels with extreme weather conditions creating excessive wear and tear on equipment, and sand frequently covering panels.

NPU begins annual hydrant flushing program

Routine maintenance procedure helps maintain water quality

NORWICH – Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) has begun the annual flushing of its water system for 2023 and expects to have the work complete by the end of September.

Each year, NPU flushes its water system by opening hydrants throughout its service area with initial focus on the mains that feed larger service areas in Norwich. Once complete, localized flushing of smaller mains in neighborhoods will take place throughout the summer and into the fall.

This year's work is starting in the Taftville and Occum areas of Norwich and continue into Greenville throughout the summer.

NPU will provide regular updates on the status and schedule of this important project on its Facebook page in the weeks ahead.

There are 1,385 hydrants on the NPU system and the utility is scheduled to flush approximately 700 this summer as part of a multi-year cycle. In almost all instances, this work, which is done by NPU crews, will take place between 7:00 am and 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

The flushing of a water system on a regular basis helps remove sediments that build up within its pipes and ensures that NPU customers will be delivered water with sufficient oxygen, disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

During and immediately after the flushing of the NPU water system, customers may experience a slight and short-term discoloration of their water. Customers are advised to open their cold water tap and allow the water to run for several minutes at full velocity which should resolve the issue. It is possible for these issues to arise anywhere on the NPU water system while the flushing process is underway. Some customers might also experience a slight – and temporary – decrease in their water pressure while this work is underway.

For any concerns, customers are encouraged to contact the NPU Customer Service Center at 860.887.2555.

HERE TO SERVE YOU

Visit our website for more information: norwichpublicutilities.com
Please call, fax or e-mail us your questions, comments and suggestions.
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