Enhancement of Pueblo of Acoma Utility Authority

Presented by:
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Agenda

• Background
• Project Overview
• Future Plans
Pueblo of Acoma

- One of nineteen Pueblos in New Mexico
- 6,344 enrolled tribal members 2,906 are on Acoma Tribal Lands
- Tribal Leadership is appointed annually by traditional leaders of the Pueblo.
- “Oldest continuously inhabited village in North America”
Location

- 55 miles west of Albuquerque in west central NM
- 770,000 acres of trust land, but the vast majority of this land is considered open range.
- 5,612 – 7068 ft above sea level, high mountain desert
- Tribal Boundaries are contiguous, few checker boards.
- In the recent years the Pueblo has acquired lands adjacent to the current boundaries.
Acoma has been pursuing energy alternatives since 2006

- Establishment of the Utility Authority (2011)
- Short-Term Action Plan (2011)
- Preliminary Feasibility Study Wind/Solar/Natural Gas (2013 YESCO)
- Market Evaluation Options Analysis (2016 WAPA)
- Utility Formation Business Plan (2017 POA UA)
- Acoma Natural Gas Connectivity Study and Deployment Assessment (2011 NM & POA)
Project Background

Solar Projects at the Pueblo of Acoma

13 unit off-grid waterless composting restroom buildings atop Old Acoma

Off-grid pv system for running track lighting
In 2016, Acoma prioritized electric utility formation

Why?

- Unique Opportunity to acquire infrastructure
- Expand on existing Utility Authority
- Control Energy Decisions
- Deliver Quality Service
- Create Tribal Jobs
- Manage Reliability
- Reinvest Utility Revenues
- Pursue Renewable Power
- Protect & Control Natural Resources
- Support Economic Development
- Enhance Sovereignty
- Protect & Control Natural Resources
- Create Tribal Jobs
Pueblo of Acoma Utility Authority

2017 Utility Authority Organization Chart

Utility Authority Board
- Tribal Council
- Tribal Administration

Executive Director
- Arvid Patil

Electric (FUTURE)
Water & Wastewater
Solid Waste Management
Public Works
Natural Gas (FUTURE)
Project Background

ROW Dispute and Settlement Agreement

- Based on a dispute between the Pueblo of Acoma and the local incumbent coop over an expired ROW agreement Acoma filed, in Tribal Court, a trespass and damages case against the coop.
- After a two year period Acoma and the incumbent coop signed a settlement agreement where the Acoma would dismiss the case and if desired by Acoma, the coop would transfer all electrical facilities within the exterior boundaries of the Pueblo.
- At the end of 2016, Acoma Pueblo partnered with Avant Energy to perform an electric utility formation assessment – high level feasibility study.
Project Background

- Next step was to develop the utility formation business plan and gain clarity on actual costs including:
  - 10 yr financial statement
  - RFP for wholesale power
  - RFP for contract O&M
- We are now negotiating the interconnection agreement which will govern how the two systems operate moving forward:
  - Facility Fees
  - Interconnection and System Separation
  - Service Territory
  - Operation and Maintenance Responsibilities
  - Reliability
  - Physical Facilities (Matrix of Responsibilities for Facilities)
  - Level of Service
  - Representations and Warranties
  - Covenants
  - Indemnification
  - Conditions Precedent
  - Closing Arrangements and Post-Closing Arrangements
  - Termination Clause
  - Choice of Law
  - Severability
  - Notices
  - Counterparties
  - Survival Terms and Conditions
  - Amendment Waiver
  - Regulatory Approvals (PRC, BIA, RUS)
Acoma Has a Unique Opportunity to Expand POAUA to Include Electric Utility Authority Wholesale Power Market (Power Contracts or Generation Assets)

Current

Future

Wholesale

Retail

Customer
Project Overview

Develop Structure

Develop People

Develop Operations

[Diagram showing organizational structure with POAUA, Electric, General Manager, O&M Contractor, Power & Strategy Consultant, Other Support, As Needed]
Project Overview

Develop Structure

- Identify Staffing Needs Based on Existing Capabilities
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Job Descriptions & SOP’s
- Hire and Train Key Staff
- Capacity Development Goals

Develop People

Develop Operations
• Five-year Utility Strategy
  - What activities should be prioritized?
  - Transition to internal O&M
  - Position utility to support economic development goals
• Operations and Maintenance Plan
  - Focus on reliability
  - Manage and prioritize investments in system improvements
  - Incumbent utility doesn’t do any pm work or scheduled system replacement, just reactionary maintenance
    - Older system with reliability issues
Future Plans

Natural Gas Utility, Renewable Generation, Apprenticeship Program, Community Wide Broadband Deployment
Acoma Has a Unique Opportunity to Expand POAUA to Include Electric Project Stakeholders

**PUEBLO OF ACOMA TRIBAL COUNCIL, GOVERNOR’S OFFICE AND THE UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD**

- **Internal Acoma Team**
- **Utility Authority - Water/Wastewater & Solid Waste**
- **Pueblo of Acoma**
- **AVANT ENERGY**
- **Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
- **Western Area Power Administration**
- **Office of Indian Energy**
Special thank you to the DOE Office of Indian Energy!

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