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New Braunfels Utilities Launches Drone Program

(New Braunfels, TX – September 19, 2019) – New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) is launching an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAV) better known as a Drone Program that will utilize proven technology to maintain a high level of transmission and distribution system reliability as well as monitor for quality assurance and control across its entire service area.

New Braunfels Utilities has studied drone technology and industry best practices for several years. In 2017, NBU utilized drones to perform inspections on three-phase electric distribution lines. The drone inspections provided insight into the potential of what could be accomplished with the use of drone technology. “Our initial flight of roughly five miles of distribution lines and poles showed us that we could use the technology efficiently and maintain 100 percent data retention,” said Robin Britton, director of technology systems and systems control.

“The NBU Drone Program has a methodical launch plan,” relayed Chief Executive Officer, Ian Taylor. “Each of NBU’s drone pilots are Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified, and have received extensive training. The NBU drones are clearly marked, making them easily identifiable. We want to ensure that customer privacy is respected; therefore, our pilots will only fly the drones on right of ways and easements that are available to NBU.”

The NBU Drone Program will allow NBU to conduct inspections of power lines, transformers, poles, and water towers and locate potential problems before they occur. Imagery and photography retention is expected to provide precise data, allowing NBU employees to make informed decisions that will increase efficiency.

“There are many safety and cost saving advantages to implementing the Drone Program,” says Taylor. “We feel the Drone Program is consistent with the mission of NBU and will enhance the level of service we provide to our customers.”

To learn more about the NBU Drone Program, visit nbutexas.com/drone.

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About New Braunfels Utilities

Dedicated to excellence in service, New Braunfels Utilities is one of 2,000 community-owned, nonprofit public power electric utilities in the nation. The mission of New Braunfels Utilities is to enhance the quality of our community by providing innovative, essential services. Governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of local residents appointed by the New Braunfels City Council, New Braunfels Utilities is committed to being a recognized and trusted community partner, providing electric, water, and waste water services. Utility revenues are continually invested back into the systems of the customers, which benefits the community. New Braunfels Utilities makes an annual transfer to the City of New Braunfels, which in turn helps to pay for services such as fire, police, and parks. Follow NBU on Facebook at facebook.com/newbraunfelsutilities, on Twitter at [@nbutexas](https://twitter.com/nbutexas), and to learn more visit nbutexas.com.

