

Remote Navajos get solar phones

Journal Staff Report

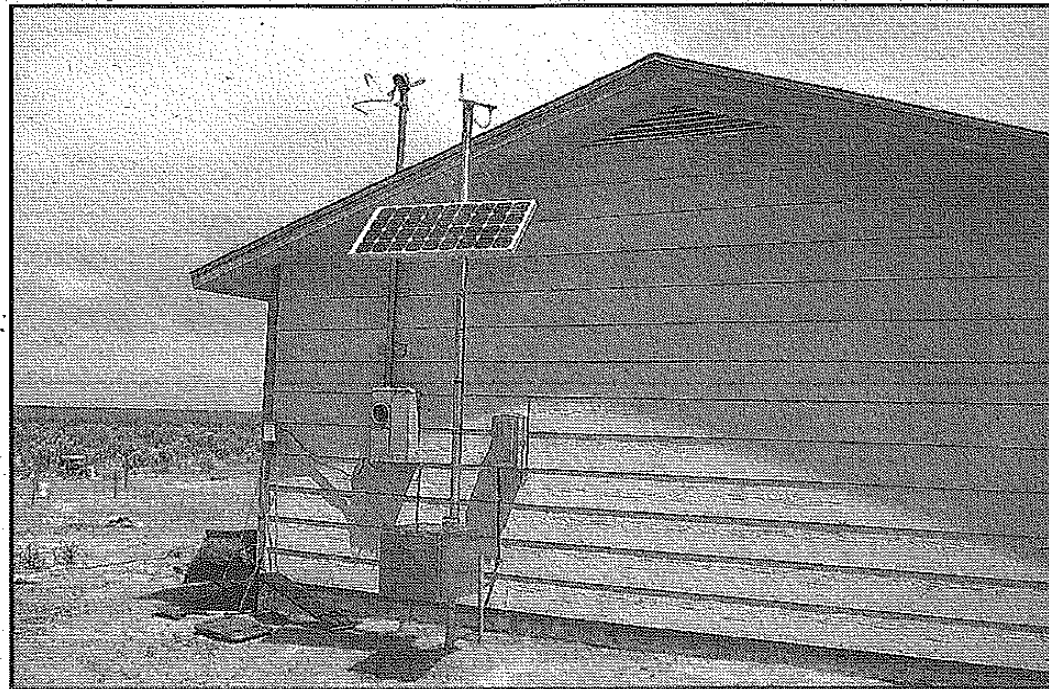
Sacred Wind Communications has added solar-powered phone service to its product line available on the Navajo Nation.

Sacred Wind, in a news release, said it is the first company in New Mexico to offer solar-powered phone service — allowing people without electricity in their homes to now have telephone service.

The first Sacred Wind solar customer is Mary Woody of the Huerfano Chapter of the Navajo Nation. She has not been able to get electric service to her home because of right-of-way issues, the company said.

“Mary is a grandmother who takes care of her daughter and granddaughter,” said John Badal, Sacred Wind Communications CEO. “She has had no telephone service, and been unable to communicate with people outside the home. This was especially worrisome in the case of an emergency. We are so thrilled to have been able to connect her and provide this much-needed service.”

Sacred Wind’s solar technology provides 7 amps and 20 volts of power with a battery that holds a charge



COURTESY SACRED WIND

This house has a solar-powered phone system supplied by Sacred Wind Communications. The system allows people without electricity to have phone service.

for seven days, he said. It is installed for phone service. The company is working on expanding its solar offering to include broadband service as well.

“Our intent is to offer these units

for elderly customers and people with medical problems who do not have electric service,” Badal added. “Having them connected will provide peace of mind for the customers and their families.”