Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership
East Central

IBOP EC

Monthly Update

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Key Dates

August 2011
Collinsville to Springfield Segment Operational

December 2011
Collinsville to Chicago Segment Operational

ICN Staff have traveled over 1,200 miles this past week performing site visits at locations on the fiber path which will be directly connected through the grant.

The purpose of the site visits is to meet face-to-face with site representatives to discuss the build process, review the physical specifications of bringing fiber into the building and confirming the details of the design are accurate.

Once complete, designs will be finalized and ready for construction. Visits continue through the first week of May.

Finding of No Significant Impact Received (FONSI)

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded CMS with a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) which clears the way for us to move forward with the construction portions of building the network including equipment installation. This is the last critical hurdle to starting with the physical components of the network.

A FONSI is issued after an extensive Environmental Assessment is performed to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act to ensure that the environment is protected from any significant harm or change. This is a normal process for all grant recipients. Having the FONSI provides the "green light" for us to move forward at full speed.

Connectivity

The IBOP-EC project, through the NTIA grant, offers enormous opportunities to access high levels of bandwidth for all ICN constituents whether their organization is directly connected with fiber through the grant or not. In fact, under 6% of the sites currently served by the ICN will be directly connected with fiber with grant funds. The majority of our constituents will continue to connect through a variety of options including leased fixed and wireless circuits, municipal fiber networks, and regional networks sharing a public or private aggregate connection to the ICN.

Those organizations with their own fiber or a fiber based circuit such as Metro Ethernet, will be in a good position to quickly take advantage of higher bandwidth since that type of media is easily scalable, but everyone connecting to the ICN will realize benefits of lower pricing, expanded service offerings and a wider range of connectivity options which are already becoming a reality.

On-network traffic, traffic which remains on the ICN or within Illinois, will increase rapidly as in-state cloud computing, disaster recovery and shared services become more available and accessible. All Illinois IBOP partners continue to work together to ensure our interconnection points are a high priority and that traffic will be exchanged seamlessly. This remains an important objective of making sure all our networks act as a larger state wide network.

Information about some of our IBOP partners can be found at:
www.illinois.net/IBOP/IBOP_EastCentral/IBOP_Partners.html

Fiber Construction RFP will be reissued soon. Procurement opportunities are posted on the State's procurement website. Vendors interested in responding to these opportunities can do so by visiting: www.sell2.illinois.gov.