



### IBOP EC Project Activities

The IBOP EC project is entering its sixth month and making good progress on pre-construction activities. During the past month the primary focus has been preparing the draft Environment Assessment which is due January 31.

The Environmental Assessment looks at the full fiber path and ensures the project will have minimal to no impact on environmental, cultural and historic resources. The report explains in detail all the activity involved in building the network as it related to the physical fiber path and surrounding environment. The Environmental Assessment must be completed and approved before any significant work can begin at any point along the fiber network. The Environmental Assessment is being finalized now and will be submitted by the end of this month. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will review the report, work with the project team and the project's professional engineering firm to make revisions as appropriate, and approve the plan enabling the project to begin construction related activities.

The project team is also developing bid solicitations for construction contractors, outside plant materials (conduit and cabling), and leased fiber. All procurement opportunities along with the award information will be posted on the State's Procurement Bulletin at [www.purchase.state.il.us](http://www.purchase.state.il.us).

### IBOP Upcoming Activities

#### February

ICE Conference - 2/23 & 2/24

### Cost Recovery



ICN staff continues to work on a new bandwidth pricing structure and funding allocation model to be implemented as the fiber network becomes complete.

The ICN Advanced Engineering Taskforce met on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and approved continuing with a credit model for primary constituents, which projects significant benefits in terms of bandwidth access and lower costs.

### Project Timeline

In November, the IBOP EC project team submitted a revised project timeline to the BTOP program. The timeline has been approved, establishing quarterly milestones which will be used to measure progress. The grant requires all projects to be substantially (67%) complete within two years and complete within three years.

