



### IBOP-EC Update

The environmental team at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) completed a review of the draft Environmental Assessment and provided feedback which is to be addressed in the final Environmental Assessment. In parallel to this, the project received a letter of concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer, completing the one remaining agency concurrence milestone required to receive a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) from NTIA. The final Environmental Assessment is scheduled to be submitted in early April for final NTIA review.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for fiber construction was posted to the Illinois Procurement Bulletin on March 4, 2011 and vendor bids are due back April 15, 2011. This bid will result in contracts with multiple vendors for fiber optic cabling construction work anticipated to begin in late June.

Additionally, the project team has begun lab testing and training on the Fujitsu equipment that will be used to light the fiber optic cabling. A number of ICN staff participated in a one-week, hands-on training course, led by Fujitsu, focused on the implementation and maintenance of the fiber optic equipment.

An agreement with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority for the lease of dark fiber was signed in early March. This agreement for fiber in the Chicago and suburban area, combined with the existing CMS dark fiber along the I-55 corridor, represents a total of 444 fiber route miles of the planned 2,339 fiber infrastructure. Once the project receives a FONSI from NTIA, CMS will move forward with the fiber splicing to connect the leased fiber optic cabling and installing the optical equipment along the leased fiber paths.

CMS is optimistic that the Collinsville to Springfield segment will be operational this summer, with the segments from Springfield to Peoria to Chicago operational by the end of the calendar year. This will be in parallel to fiber construction activities that will be underway for the newly constructed portions of the fiber infrastructure.

### Key Dates

**March 2, 2011**  
CMS Agreement with Illinois State Toll Highway Authority

**March 4, 2011**  
Fiber Construction RFP Posted

**April 2011**  
Final Environmental Assessment Submission

**April 15, 2011**  
Fiber Construction RFP Bids Due

**August 2011**  
Collinsville to Springfield Segment Operational

**December 2011**  
Collinsville to Chicago Segment Operational



The IBOP Project Team unpacks and installs Fujitsu lab equipment that will eventually be used to light fiber optic cabling.

