



IBOP-EC Update



Construction activities are underway! We've divided the 1,000 miles of new fiber construction into 13 segments/packages. CMS is managing the implementation of 11 of these segments and Illinois State University is managing 2 segments. Our master contract construction vendors are bidding on individual packages as the detailed design is finalized. Once a vendor is selected and a purchase order issued, the vendors begin pre-construction activities which includes ordering materials and organizing work crews and equipment. This segment approach results in staggered start and end to construction. We anticipate that all 13 segments will be under construction by the end of March 2012.

The first segment under construction is the path from Kankakee to Champaign. J. F. Electric has three crews in the field taking advantage of the mild temperatures. Weather permitting, the crews are working 10 hour days, 5 days per week to hit a May 2012 completion date. The J.F. crews started on the Champaign end of the segment and will be working their way North. Obviously, the ICN staff and our vendors are wishing for a mild winter season.

The next two segments to start construction will be the path from Kankakee to the south side of Chicago and a lateral build in Litchfield. Meade was selected for the Kankakee to Chicago build. They are in the pre-construction phase and plan to start construction in January. Ledcor will be working on the Litchfield lateral which includes a connection to our first anchor institution – Litchfield High School. Ledcor is also in the pre-construction phase and plans to start construction in January. The Litchfield lateral is a very short build and should be complete within about 8 weeks.

ICN is working on securing bids for the remaining segments. The last bid request is expected to be released in late January which means we should have vendors selected for all segments by the end of February.

As the year ends, we want to wish our constituents and supporters Happy Holidays. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to an exciting 2012!



Beginning in January, ICN staff will initiate a series of meetings with the communities along the fiber build path. The meetings will provide an opportunity to meet face to face with the anchor institutions of the communities where the fiber cable will pass through or near.

Meetings are designed to provide a project update but also very specific information on the fiber route, interconnection points and benefits the project will bring to the area. Meetings will include representatives from our traditional constituent groups which can be impacted by the network.

Please continue to contact our Regional Technology Offices for further information about the project for your area.



Fiber Installation

Pictured right:
J.F. Construction crews check on the progress of the conduit installation



Pictured left:
Boring equipment drives the conduit through ground with minimal ground disturbance