



IBOP-EC - Look How Far We Have Come!

Completion of the IBOP-EC fiber project (Summer 2013), will result with new, existing and leased fiber network spanning about 2,300 miles, with about 1,000 miles of new fiber construction to reach un-served and under-served areas in Illinois.



Working on a Directional Bore

Boring The project utilizes two different construction methodologies: directional boring and plowing. Directional boring is used to drill a hole underground in order to place conduit in areas

Truck Hauling Conduit Reel, Boring Machine and Water Supply

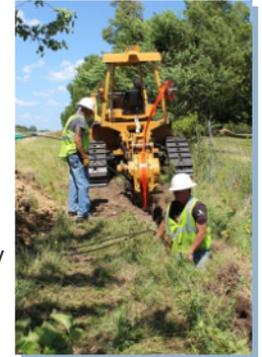


where the running line of the fiber path is obstructed. Examples of obstructions in the running line include trees, rivers, streams, roads and railroads. Once the bore is completed by drilling a hole with metal pipes and a drill head, the conduit is then pulled back and “placed” through the hole.



Orange Warning Fiber Tape

Plowing Plowing is used to directly bury conduit or fiber in the ground in open areas along the fiber path. Plow attachments utilize a narrow blade to place the conduit or fiber directly in the ground. The conduit or fiber is fed into a guide on the back of the blade and typically placed at a depth of 4 feet underground. In parallel to the fiber placement, warning tape is fed into a guide on the back of the blade and typically placed at a depth of 2 feet underground. The orange warning tape is a key component of the installation process. Its presence is intended to prevent potential fiber cuts if someone is digging in the area in the future. In areas of the fiber path where the conduit is placed in advance of the fiber, the fiber can then be pulled through at a later date.



Plowing Fiber

Segments & Estimated Completion Dates	
Kankakee to Chicago	09/30/12
Kankakee to Champaign	09/30/12
Bloomington to Champaign	10/31/12
CIRBN City	03/31/13
Champaign to Effingham	10/31/12
Paris to Olney	04/30/13
Effingham to Collinsville	04/30/13
Champaign to Springfield	04/30/13
Quincy to Springfield	04/30/13
Quincy to Macomb	04/30/13
CIRBN to Rural	07/31/12
Northern Laterals	09/30/12
Litchfield to I55 Lateral	Active!
Peoria to Canton	02/28/13



Hand Hole

Hand holes or “hand holds”

are concrete polymer boxes that are placed in the ground to serve as interconnection points or “hand holds” along the fiber path. These interconnection points are the locations at which the ends of the individual fiber reels are



Armored Fiber

spliced together to create one contiguous fiber path. These are also the interconnection points in which other fiber networks can be interconnected with the CMS fiber.