



*Wyoming's Statewide Public-Safety
Interoperable Radio
Communications Systems*

Project Status Report

Date: November 14, 2005
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WyoLink is Wyoming's statewide public safety interoperable radio communications system.

This report provides current information on this state of the WyoLink public safety radio project and answers questions of common interest.

TOPICS IN THIS REPORT:

- A. Pilot Phase Radio Sites
- B. WyoLink Master Site
- C. Federal Agency Participation
- D. 2006 Funding Request
- E. Project Schedule

A. Pilot Phase Radio Sites

Four of the five WyoLink Pilot Phase radio sites have been completed. The radio sites completed are: 85-South, North Albin, Russell Hill, and Whitaker. Coverage drive testing was conducted for the 85-South and Russell Hill radio sites. While the final report is pending, initial indications are that the coverage reliability exceeds the specifications.

The Sherman Hill radio sites should be completed shortly. Some work at that site has been hampered by recent weather conditions, and the effort benefited by a couple of warm days last week. Activation of this site will require changing the input frequency for Highway Maintenance, Highway Patrol, and SALECS, and the conversion of Mutual-Aid to a repeater at this location. These changes have been carefully planned and prepared for, and should not pose a significant inconvenience to existing radio users.

B. WyoLink Master Site

The WyoLink Master site will be activated on Monday, November 14th. The decision was made to activate Master site even though the electrical power input upgrade is still in progress. This will provide additional time for system testing.

The Master site building electrical power upgrade is underway. The 800-amp, three phase, electrical power transformer is scheduled to ship from the manufacturer on November 29th. Delivery of this essential equipment has apparently been hampered by the heavy demand. A great deal of electrical equipment has been allocated in response to the recent catastrophic hurricanes in Southern states, which is an understandable and uncontrollable delay. The general contractor is doing preparatory work while waiting for the electrical equipment to ship.

C. Federal Agency Participation

There has been movement toward Federal agency participation in WyoLink. Contacts with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture have been constructive.

The potential participation of federal agencies is positive development for WyoLink as a whole. A partnership would be mutually beneficial as there are potential cost savings for WyoLink users and federal agencies. Providing for direct radio communications between WyoLink user agency staff and federal agency staff creates the interoperability envisioned when WyoLink was planned.

D. 2006 Funding Request

A budget package has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature. The request addresses budget adjustments related to the Master site expansion and the revised frequency acquisition process. Also included is a request for funding to assist local agencies in connecting their dispatch centers to the WyoLink infrastructure.

E. Project Schedule

While there have been project delays, the goal of completing the WyoLink core infrastructure by the end of 2007 remains unchanged. It is not unusual for a project of this complexity and scale to encounter difficulties in the early phases. The Pilot Phase is absolutely the most difficult phase of the project, dealing with many system wide and system configuration issues. Each difficulty encountered in the Pilot Phase has been addressed and is either resolved or in process to resolution. These specific issues will not be encountered again. The remaining phases of the project involve doing the same work that has been done at the Pilot Phase radio sites over again . . . 50 to 60 times. There will be challenges, but those challenges will not be of the type or magnitude encountered in the Pilot Phase. This is why the present challenges should not be viewed as threatening the long term success of the WyoLink project. WyoLink will be completed on schedule.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of WyoLink, Wyoming's Statewide Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications System.

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Extensive project information is available at: <http://WyoLink.wy.gov>

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