

WyoLink Support Manager's Report to the PSCC

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

WyoLink is poised for a busy and productive summer construction season. Work has already begun, and will proceed as fast as humanly possible on Phase 3 and 4 sites. Motorola has two tower crews in the state, and this will enable the necessary work to be completed more quickly.

We were dealt a setback on Friday by the discovery of damage to microwave dishes and mounting hardware at the Copper Mountain site (near Shoshoni) caused by microwave dishes being improperly secured to the tower. Fortunately there was no damage to dishes or antennas currently in use. WyoLink is working with the WYDOT Microwave Shop, Telecommunications Technicians in Basin, Motorola and their subcontractors to assess and repair the damage, order replacement dishes and antennas and have them mounted as soon as possible. Until the assessment is completed, I won't know how much of a delay this will cause.

All the necessary paperwork, documentation and forms have been submitted to the FCC for our license applications. Our license approvals are now in the hands of the FCC, and Motorola will keep me informed as to their status. As soon as we have FCC licenses, I will inform the PSCC and we will begin turning up WyoLink towers according to a plan that has been developed.

I have several promising applicants for the vacant WyoLink Network Specialist, and interviews will begin tomorrow. I hope to have a decision made and a new technician on board by the end of June.

I have begun work on Hell Hole Ridge, a site that we will be sharing with the State of Idaho near Montpelier, Idaho. The microwave path between Hell Hole and Sage Junction was verified in late May, paving the way for this site.

Angle Mountain was ruled out by the BTNF, as there are many restrictions on this site that would either prevent or greatly delay (until at least 2010) this site. A replacement site has been identified at the Togwotee Trail Head, and Tom Mahon and I will meet with the Forest Service on June 30 to walk this site and discuss the procedure for obtaining a permit for its use.

The BBNF has indicated that there could be problems obtaining our proposed site at Bear Rocks. Tom Mahon and I will meet with them on July 1 in Sheridan to discuss these problems, possible solutions to them or other possible sites that would be more likely to be approved and that will meet WyoLink requirements. We plan on leaving Sheridan with a workable plan for a site that will fulfill both BBNF and WyoLink requirements.

As issues arise with our applications at other sites in the Forest Service, I continue to work with Barb Chancellor of WYDOT's Right of Way program to address them so the permitting process may proceed with minimum delay.

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Wyoming Highway Patrol and WYDOT Maintenance are working towards switching their operations to WyoLink in District 1 and possibly District 3 by October, 2008. Towards that end, Troy and I met with WYDOT Maintenance on Thursday to assist them developing modifications to their fleetmap that will allow their operations greater flexibility on WyoLink and that will allow them to communicate with the Wyoming Highway Patrol. I am excited to see Maintenance and WHP moving toward utilizing WyoLink!

Motorola, Cheyenne Fire and WyoLink are working on the Cheyenne Fire 800 MHz site on Fox Farm Road. The site is currently operational as a WyoLink site, with two channels (out of five) operating on WyoLink. We are working on the final few issues with the Cheyenne Fire codeplugs, and we will have them ready in time for the cut over of the LCCCC dispatch center to WyoLink. As issues and problems arise with both the 800 MHz site and the LCCCC dispatch center, the WyoLink Support Office works with Motorola to resolve them.

Work is progressing on dispatch centers in Teton County, Platte County, the City of Powell, Gillette PD and Campbell County. The WyoLink Support Office is working with Motorola to bring these dispatch centers on line, resolving issues and problems as they arise.

I am preparing the methodology for testing portable radio coverage that will be used to determine if and where coverage enhancements will be needed. I will work with members of the Operations Work Group to refine this procedure and develop a procedure that will work for all cases and will yield valid results that can be used to make coverage enhancement decisions.

WyoLink has a busy summer ahead, and we plan to make the best of it!