

WyoLink Support Manager's Report to the PSCC
Tuesday, December 9, 2008

The summer construction season has been a busy and fruitful one. We have 31 WyoLink sites active, with five more to follow in the next two weeks, and another six by the end of the year. Phases two and three have been accepted by WyoLink, and the sites in those phases are complete.

The parts to repair the damaged dishes at Copper Mountain are on site, and Motorola, their subcontractors and WYDOT will be performing this work next week, weather permitting. When this work is complete, this will allow the six sites dependent on Copper Mountain to become active.

WYDOT and Wyoming Highway Patrol have switched their operations to WyoLink in WYDOT's District One, and results have generally been good. There is a problem with coverage in the Elk Mountain Interchange area (From Milepost 240 through Milepost 263 on I-80) that seems to be due to multi-path interference caused by the unique topography in that area. Signal strength in that stretch is adequate, but the signals from WyoLink towers are reaching the mobile radios at multiple times, causing the digital signals to be received with excessive errors. WyoLink is working with Motorola to analyze the test data and craft a solution. One of the possible solutions may be a tower in the Elk Mountain Interchange vicinity, but that remains to be proven that it will be the best solution. There were coverage issues in Telephone Canyon, along highway 287 south to the Colorado border, and along I-80 from Laramie towards Arlington. These issues were due to a defective radio at the Strouss Hill WyoLink site. That radio has been disabled until warranty repairs are complete. With that radio disabled, Strouss Hill is operating on four channels instead of five, but the problem no longer exists. There are no capacity issues at Strouss Hill due to this one channel being disabled.

WyoLink and WYDOT's Right of Way program continue to make progress on the sites requiring permits from the Forest Service. Many obstacles and issues have been resolved, and we are confident we can resolve any future issues that may arise. The permit process is slow, but we are doing everything we can to speed it along.

We have developed and are continuing to develop procedures for working with various agencies to make their dispatch centers reliable, from responding quickly and methodically to T1 circuit issues, to making modifications to dispatch console configurations.

In the coming month, WyoLink will be working with the Operations Work Group, Motorola and interested users to determine when and where testing for portable coverage should begin, and on what schedule.

WyoLink has been working closely with Motorola to refine the handling of trouble tickets and to ensure that outages and problems are reported promptly and handled in a manner that will effect repairs in the most efficient manner without excess expense.

The coverage enhancement site at the Cheyenne Water Tower is ready for construction. Bob Symons and I are working on acquiring the necessary permits, the building will arrive mid December, and WyoLink, Motorola, Union Telephone and the Board of Public Utilities are working closely to coordinate the construction of this site. It should be ready before we receive frequencies to allow it to come on line.