

12/8/11

## Big River Broadband Broadband Deployment Update

Please see Big River's response below to your questions.

All companies receiving federal broadband stimulus funding for Missouri broadband projects:

As you may be aware the Missouri State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment has asked the MoPSC to compile a report concerning maximizing broadband development in Missouri (see attached letter). As a recipient of federal broadband stimulus funding I am requesting a **brief status report** of your broadband project. Although I have reviewed the status reports posted on [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) I am requesting more up-to-date information than is currently posted on this web site. Specifically state the completion percentage of each project (i.e., 0% reflect project not yet started while 100% reflects the project is complete), anticipated completion date and describe the work and/or construction already completed (i.e., number of new wireless towers installed, miles of new fiber installed, number of households connected and so forth).

Big River has just commenced with construction. We currently have agreements in place to provide services on 11 towers in our serving area. We have ordered the equipment, performed structural analysis and civil drawings for these towers. We expect to have these towers in service within the next six months. Big River plans are to install 47 new construction towers. Of the new construction towers we have all the engineering and environmental work completed for 10 of these towers. We anticipate construction crews to begin foundation work on these 10 towers in December. For the next 13 towers Big River has completed most of the engineering and environmental work but has not started construction. Big River has not started any work on the remaining 24 towers. Total construction is less than 3% complete. We project 100% completion by May 2014.

In addition, please provide any relevant input addressing any of the items contained in the Senate Committee's letter, including but not limited to:

1. Recommendations and potential public policy decisions on how to maximize broadband development in Missouri including increasing deployment and availability of broadband services. (Consider making a state USF fund to support deployment of broadband for high cost areas and to support low income households, especially those households with students in K-12).
2. An identification of barriers to broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas. (Lack of middle mile broadband infrastructure; in some cases no infrastructure exists in other cases, infrastructure exists but is available from only one provider and the rates charged are prohibitively high).
3. Assessing advertised versus actual broadband speeds. (Nothing to report).