

The future is now with Nelson Telephone Cooperative

Nelson Telephone Cooperative (NTC) continually faces the challenges and costs of providing cutting edge technology to the rural communities they serve, and they are committed to that mission. Today, NTC is implementing plans to connect our communities with the best possible technology available.

One of these new strategies includes using Fiber to the home or FTTH. Starting in the summer of 2012 NTC will begin the placement of FTTH in the City of Durand. While NTC has used fiber-optics for many years to support their primary network they are now bringing this incredibly high-bandwidth connection to their subscribers premise. This is a significant investment for NTC but there will be no initial installation fees to customers.

FTTH is the use of fiber-optic cables run directly to the user's home or business. Construction will involve the installation of fiber optic cables by Tjader and Highstrom with the direction of Finley Engineering. These cables are long, thin strands of pure glass about the diameter of a human hair, and carry voice and data signals by using laser-generated pulses of light from one end to another. Because these signals move at the speed of light, transmissions are very fast, and because light can travel great distances without the weakening of signal, it can travel great distances without errors. The fiber-optics will allow customers to receive Landline Phone Service, Internet, Television and future offerings on just one strand.

Christy Berger, General Manager for Nelson Telephone Cooperative, said, "We are excited to be able to bring our customers this next generation of communications technology. It's all part of our continuing commitment to provide exceptional services. Fiber to the home not only offers many advantages today, but it's virtually unlimited bandwidth "future proofs" our network for other services that will become available tomorrow. The capabilities of fiber-optics far exceed those of copper wire and this is an investment in the future that we feel will bring value to our customers and our communities."

One of the most striking FTTH advantages that customers in Durand will notice is the availability of faster Internet speeds which will make online tasks more efficient, such as downloading movies, uploading large pictures or files, watching streaming video, shopping, gaming and more. Also, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) in the future may offer more HD, 3D and possibly Video-On-Demand services.

The completion of this project will put the City of Durand at the forefront of communications. Residents and business owners can expect direct contact from Nelson Telephone Cooperative in the near future with more information about this exciting technology.