

September 2019

KentuckyWired Update

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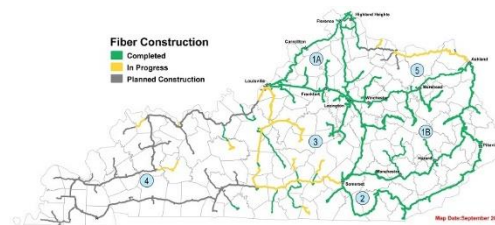
SOAR Summit

Congressman Hal Rogers and Governor Matt Bevin announced the completion of the construction phase for KentuckyWired Rings 1B and 2 in dramatic fashion during the 2019 SOAR Summit Friday, September 6 in Pikeville. With a ten-second countdown, Governor Bevin and Congressman Rogers simultaneously switched on light bulbs and watched as the large overhead monitor displayed the completion of Rings 1B and 2.

Also, among the speakers was KCNA Interim Executive Director Deck Decker.

Decker emphasized the need for last mile providers and communities to start planning now to connect with KentuckyWired as it is rapidly placing fiber throughout the Commonwealth.

SOAR staff estimates over 1300 people attended the two-day event.



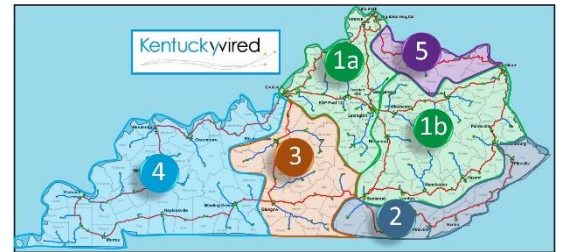
Over Half Way There!

KentuckyWired has now constructed over 1900 miles of the 3,000-mile network. Having completed the make-ready engineering, make-ready construction, and pole attachment agreements, the placing of fiber is now occurring at a much faster rate. Construction is complete in Rings 1A, 1B, and 2, and all rings are on pace to be completed in 2020.

In addition, 20 telecommunications huts have been placed throughout the state. The huts are located primarily at State Police posts and Kentucky Community and Technical College campuses, and contain equipment vital to the KentuckyWired fiber optic network.

KentuckyWired's middle mile network will reach into all 120 counties, connecting government offices, state police posts, state parks, universities, and community colleges. Along its path, private companies can connect to the network, lease its fiber and extend their services.

KentuckyWired will bring an economic boost to the economy, attract businesses to Kentucky, bring in more jobs, enhance healthcare and education, facilitate better coordination among first responders, and enable internet service providers and cellular companies to bring service to more remote areas of the commonwealth.



Helping Veterans



KentuckyWired is connecting state government offices, universities, community colleges, state police posts, and many other community facilities. Among these are two of the state's veterans centers — Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center in Hazard and Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson.

The centers are long-term care facilities, built for the sole purpose of taking care of Kentucky veterans. They provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and many other medical services.

Neil Napier, Administrator for the Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center in Hazard said, "KentuckyWired's fiber optic cable will be a tremendous benefit to our veterans and staff here, enabling us to rapidly send and receive medical images and information, and helping us use and maintain electronic medical records."

Napier added the current internet service "is very slow, especially when patients are utilizing their computers and laptops. High-speed internet connection is a vital service for our residents to maintain relationships with their family, friends and community. It promotes both mental and emotional health for everyone."

"The Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs (KDVA) is absolutely thrilled with the upcoming installation of high-speed fiber optics internet at our Eastern and Western Kentucky Veterans Centers," said KDVA

Commissioner Ben Adams said. “This structure will complement our veteran’s centers’ new Point Click Care electronic health care record currently being fielded in a way that will expedite and increase the proficiency of the documentation entered daily on every resident.

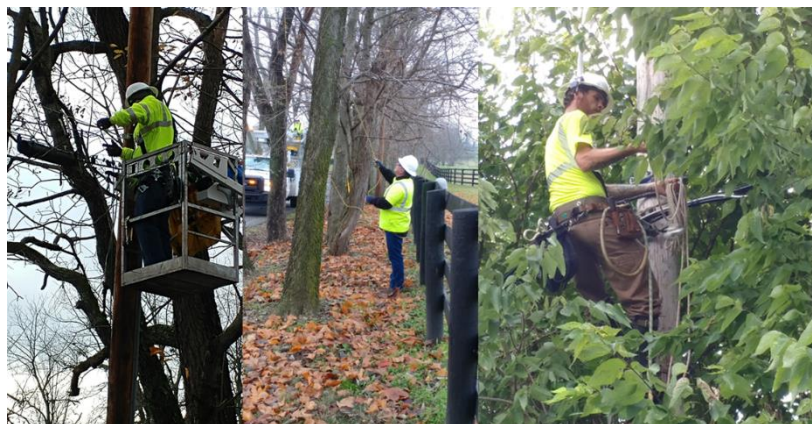
“This new capability will also offer the veterans, their family members and visitors increased access to the internet, as well as the center’s activities programs and the new call-bell system. I would like to thank the Commonwealth for including the KDVA in this important initiative and look forward to expanding this new capability to our other two veteran’s centers in Nicholasville and Radcliff.”

Industry Knowledge

What is Strand?

Fiber optic cable attached to utility poles must be made tight and stable. To ensure its durability, a strong, steel cable called “**strand**,” is first installed. The fiber cable is then added alongside. Once both strand and cable are attached to the utility poles, a device called a “**lasher**” about the size of a watermelon is added. A crewmember on the ground pulls the device along (right). As the lasher is pulled it rotates, wrapping another wire around both strand and fiber cable lashing them together.

This can be a very difficult, time-consuming task when the fiber cable runs through tree limbs (below).





Doug Hendrix

A construction project of this magnitude requires excellent legal counsel, overseeing a sea of contracts, making sure every “i” is dotted and every “t” is crossed, overseeing rights-of-way, bond issues, and testifying before legislative committees. Few people

can fulfill that role as phenomenally as Doug Hendrix, working tirelessly to ensure the completion of the KentuckyWired project. KCNA is extremely lucky to have Doug as its lead counsel.

Interim Chief Executive Officer Deck Decker says, “Doug’s knowledge and professionalism are without equal. We couldn’t get this job done without him.”

Doug graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor’s of Business Administration, and then from the University of Louisville’s law school. Doug lives in Frankfort with his wife, Laura and their three children – Macaulay, Sydney and Cooper. Although he has spent time in private practice, most of his career has been spent serving in state government – Dept. of Revenue, Finance and Administration, and the Public Service Commission.

So what is Doug like when he is away from the office?

Hobbies: I love to read, fish, and do crossfit.

What do you enjoy most in life? Spending time with my family.

Person you admire most: Abraham Lincoln. He faced tough challenges every day but still managed to have a sense of humor.

Name one thing on your bucket list you have not yet done. Tarpon fishing.

What are some causes you care about? I care about the environment. We’re stewards of the planet and its inhabitants and we need to protect it.

Thanks, Doug, for everything you do!



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KentuckyWired website: <https://kentuckywired.ky.gov>