

iFiber project underway!

Work began July 18, 2011, just south of Sublette, IL, to lay cable as part of the iFiber project. Crews from PirTano Construction Company, the first contractor for the iFiber project, began work along Route 52, between Sublette and Mendota to the south. The project is being directed by the Illinois Fiber Resources Group, an Illinois not-for-profit organization.

The iFiber project is designed to bring a reliable high-speed fiber network to a nine-county region. Based out of Addison, IL, PirTano Construction will complete work in Carroll, JoDaviess, Lee and Whiteside counties for the project.

Design engineering and permitting will be coordinated by Baxter & Woodman. Announcements are expected soon naming other contractors selected for the iFiber project. Firms selected for construction are uniquely qualified in specific regions of the network area.

The project is a public-private partnership focused on improving broadband infrastructure in under-served rural areas. It will provide access to the new fiber optic network to community anchor institutions such as schools, government, libraries, community colleges and health care providers.



A worker from PirTano Construction Company runs the fiber optic cable boring equipment.



The cable bores underground to workers waiting several hundred feet away.



Workers at the other end of the site guide the cable progress. At right, depth of a water main is checked prior to cable being bored.



An overview of the site along Rt. 52, just south of Sublette.



Workers plow south of the Sublette site to prepare the path.