



VIEW IN BROWSER



**Singing River
Connect**

Powered by Singing River Electric

E-newsletter #3 - November 2021

Thank you for expressing an interest in SR Connect high-speed fiber internet service and our fiber-to-the-home pilot projects.

**give the gift of
SR Connect fiber
- no cords necessary**

* Get **FREE installation** and a chance to win an **Amazon Echo Show 5** when you sign up by Jan. 12!

**Better streaming and no buffering with lightning-fast
fiber internet**

Receive free installation during the pilot phase and a chance to win an Amazon Echo Show 5 when you sign up for SR Connect fiber internet by January 12, 2022.*

**Only subscribers in SRE's Brewer substation Cochran Road feeder are eligible for this drawing.*



Installation Delays Explained

SR Connect planned to bring fiber internet service to its first subscriber in late October/early November 2021. However, the date is now delayed until December 2021 due to late summer/early fall construction rain delays and difficulty receiving permits for a railroad crossing and fiber access in National Forest Service land. The railroad crossing permit was originally due back to SR Connect on October 21.

As of today, the National Forest Service land permit is expected in mid-December, and the railroad crossing permit is expected at any moment. Last week, fiber internet connection equipment was relocated from SRE's Lucedale office to the Sand Hill office; doing this will allow subscribers in SRE's Brewer substation Cochran Road feeder to receive service more quickly despite the railroad permit delay.

Fiber construction is progressing well in all three pilots (outside of National Forest Service land) and with the 400-mile distribution ring. Construction crews will be able to complete work in the remaining 20 percent of the pilot project land in the National Forest area shortly after receiving this permit.

One

Fiber lines must be constructed on electric poles from SRE's Lucedale office to the pilot areas and back to the office to provide fiber.

Two

The construction process involves many parts including engineering, make-ready work, construction, splicing, drops and installation.



Three

We experienced some fiber construction delays due to increased rainy days, time needed to obtain railroad and National Forest land permits and more.

Four

Fiber line construction moves quicker than you think, usually 25 miles/wk. SRC plans to light up subscribers in our first pilot area this month.

Projected Dates for Fiber Construction



Note: These are *projected* dates and are subject to change due to weather and many other factors involved with starting and completing each step in the process.

Pilot Project 1 - Brewer Substation Area

Work in the Brewer substation's Feeder #3 - Cochran Road area is in **Step Seven - Installation**. Prospective subscribers in this feeder are signing service agreements, making their first payments, and having drops installed in advance of scheduling fiber installation.

Work in the Brewer substation's Feeder #1 - Union Road area is in **Step 4 - Splicing** while work in Feeder #2 - Camp Road area is in **Step 3 - Fiber Construction**.

- Progress in specific parts of the Brewer substation's Feeder #1 and #2 is delayed due to poles being located on U.S. Forest Service land.
 - Bringing fiber service to some homes will be delayed until approvals to work on U.S. Forest Service land are in place.
 - Prospective subscribers in Feeders #1 and #2 **outside** of the U.S. Forest Service land will receive postcards and emails about scheduling fiber installation.

Pilot Project 2 - Aleco Substation Area

Work in the Aleco substation area is in **Step 3 - Fiber Construction**.

Pilot Project 3 - Agricola Substation Area

Work in the Agricola substation area is in **Step 2 - Make-Ready Construction**. Progression to **Step 3 - Fiber Construction** is expected in January 2022.

These figures show expressed interests in SR Connect's three pilot areas designated by Singing River Electric substation and feeder.

Singing River Electric's board of directors is monitoring the expressed interests inside and outside of the pilot areas along with scheduled installations in the pilot areas. Based on these results, the board will decide whether to expand fiber service to other areas and where.

Brewer Pilot Area

Cochran Road Feeder
64 subscribers paid and completed service agreements

Union Road Feeder
80% expressed interests

Camp 8 Road Feeder
71% expressed interests

Aleco Pilot Area

Highway 57 North Feeder
63% expressed interests

Lake-O-Pines Feeder
51% expressed interests

Agricola Pilot Area

Movella Feeder
63% expressed interests

Highway 613 N. Feeder
66% expressed interests

7,267 interests expressed outside of the pilot areas

Construction Photos



SR Connect's underground fiber contractor recently completed fiber installation on Dickerson Sawmill Road in George County.

Fiber installation follows the power lines. If the power lines are underground, the fiber lines will be also. However, for fiber redundancy in this location, both above



SRC's fiber contractor, MDR Powerline Construction, replaces power poles on Highway 63 in Jackson County.

Construction of this 400-mile fiber distribution ring will connect all Singing River Electric substations and offices to fiber allowing for improved SCADA technology in the dispatch center and

ground and underground fiber lines were built.

creating a backbone for future fiber expansion.

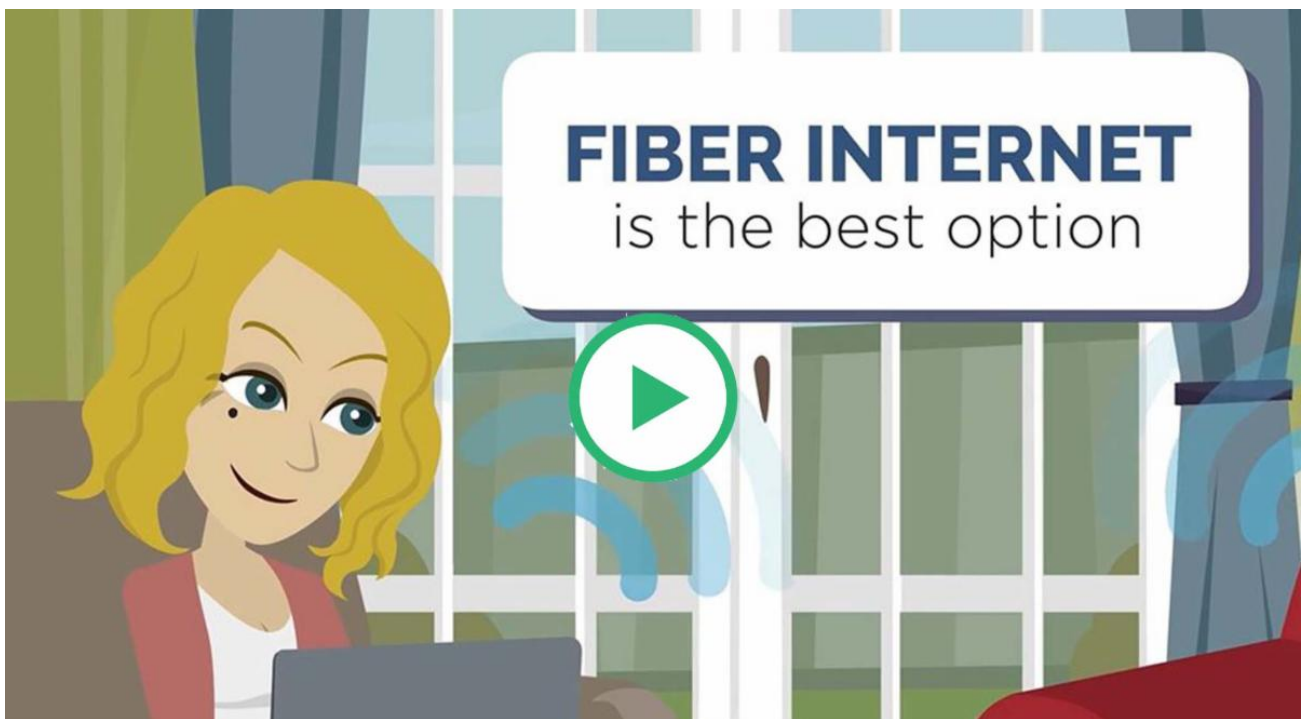
Why Hasn't SRE's Board of Directors Made a Decision to Expand Fiber Service?

The decision to expand SR Connect's fiber-to-the-home service beyond the pilot project areas depends on the success of the pilots. Once subscribers in all three areas are receiving fiber internet service, the board will be able to gauge their success. It will **most likely** be 1st Quarter 2022 before the pilot projects are completed, barring no delays.

Contract crews are working safely and quickly to complete construction. This project not only takes time but also a great investment. The SCADA equipment and fiber pilot projects together cost nearly \$9 million. When you add in the fiber distribution ring connecting all SRE substations, offices and the SR Connect pilot areas, it totals more than \$15 million.

What is fiber? And why is it so great?

CLICK BELOW TO LEARN MORE



Search your address and express an interest in SR Connect fiber-to-the-home service if you haven't already done so. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same!

SEARCH YOUR ADDRESS



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