

SR Singing River Connect

Powered by Singing River Electric

E-newsletter #4 - December 2021

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



SR Connect's First Subscriber

On December 13, Perry County resident and Singing River Electric member, Ms. Kendra Pittman, became the first official SR Connect subscriber in the fiber-to-the-home pilot projects. Pittman receives electricity from Singing River Electric's Brewer substation - Cochran Road feeder in the first of SR Connect's three pilot areas.

"Access to high-speed internet is now a necessity, and we are excited for Ms. Pittman's family and all those in the pilot areas who will be connected in the coming months," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "Bringing this essential service to Singing River Connect subscribers continues Singing River Electric's mission of providing services that enhance quality of life, especially in our rural communities."

Those pictured above celebrating Singing River Connect's first fiber subscriber are: Perry County District 3 Supervisor Tim Wise, Public Service Commissioner Dane Maxwell, Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey, Perry County District 4 Supervisor Richard Lott, First SRC Subscriber Kendra Pittman, Perry County District 5 Supervisor Marc Williams, District 105 Representative Dale Goodin, and Singing River Electric Director Robert Steele.



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"It's wonderful. No lagging with all our devices connected... and the experience has been one of a kind."

**- Ms. Pittman
Perry County**

Installations on Cochran Road Feeder



Fiber installations are taking place throughout Singing River Electric's Brewer substation Cochran Road feeder. Subscribers are excited about this service - see comments below.

If you are in the Cochran Road feeder area, call 877-272-6611 to set up your new fiber internet service.

"Mine is being installed today. So happy our kids can get their homework done from home now, especially if we ever have to go to virtual leaning again."

"Ours was just installed about an hour ago. Wow, it's pretty fast and no lagging or freezing. Thank you Singing River."

Subscribers in the Brewer substation Cochran Road feeder are eligible for a drawing to win an Amazon Echo Show 5 when they sign up for SR Connect fiber internet by January 12, 2022.



Sign-ups Beginning in Camp 8 Road Feeder



Prospective subscribers in the Brewer substation Camp 8 Road feeder are being contacted to sign up in advance of home installation.

Those outside the U.S. Forest land received an email last week and will receive a postcard this week about scheduling their installation.

Railroad Permit Received

SR Connect received the needed permit for a railroad crossing in George County last week. Not having the permit caused delays in bringing fiber to the Brewer substation pilot project area, but Singing River Electric engineers and information technology staff came up with a solution and relocated equipment from SRE's Lucedale office to the Sand Hill office to bypass the railroad crossing.

With the railroad permit now in hand, the next step is scheduling a flagger to notify contract crews of oncoming trains and any need to clear the railway while bringing fiber across the tracks. This work must take place before potential subscribers in Jackson County's Aleco substation pilot area can receive fiber-to-the-home service.

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

Potential subscribers in the Cochran Road feeder are in Step Seven - Installation.

The Camp 8 Road feeder is completing Step Four - Splicing and entering Step Five - Service Drops.

The Union Road feeder is in Step 3 - Fiber Construction and Step 4 - Splicing.

Note: Bringing fiber to some homes in the Camp 8 Road and Union Road feeders will be delayed until approvals to work on U.S. Forest Service land are in place.

Pilot Project 2 - Aleco Substation Area

Work is in Step 3 - Fiber Construction and should begin Step 4 - Splicing in January 2022.

Pilot Project 3 - Agricola Substation Area

Work is in Step 3 - Fiber Construction. Progression to Step 4 - Splicing is expected by February 2022.

SR Connect Fiber-to-the-Home Pilot Areas

These figures show progress and expressed interest 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
32 home installations completed

Camp 8 Road Feeder
51 subscribers paid and completed service agreements

Union Road Feeder
84% expressed interests

Aleco Pilot Area

Highway 57 North Feeder
70% expressed interests

Lake-O-Pines Feeder
54% expressed interests

Agricola Pilot Area

Movella Feeder
65% expressed interests

Highway 613 N. Feeder
70% expressed interests

7,747 interests expressed outside of the pilot areas

Bringing Fiber to Aleco Substation Pilot Area

Fiber contractors work near Highway 26 in George County. They are constructing a distribution fiber line headed toward the second fiber pilot area in Jackson County's Vestry community.



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's the Advantage of SR Connect's GigaSpire BLAST Wi-Fi System?

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



singingriverconnect.com
(877) 272-6611
contactus@singingriverconnect.com



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