

Administrator Update, June 23, 2011

Capital Projects

DC Power Plant Equipment – this equipment provides power to the radio and microwave equipment at the TRWC radio sites. The existing equipment is more than ten years old and is failing at an increasing rate. The new equipment will improve the reliability of the TRWC radio site equipment. The new equipment is on order, and is scheduled for delivery to the City of Mesa Communications Department warehouse on June 29, 2011. Installation will begin on July 12th at the Falcon Field site, and will continue until August 9th when the Twin Knolls site will be installed.

Spread Spectrum Microwave Radios – this project will replace the microwave radios currently in use between the Twin Knolls site and Apache Junction Fire Station 264 and the TRW site and Apache Junction Fire Station 262. The existing microwave radios utilize spread spectrum technology, which is susceptible interference, and causes reduced reliability of the radio network connectivity to the TRWC sites at Apache Junction Fire Station 264, Apache Junction Fire Station 262, and Apache Junction Police Dispatch. New microwave radios will be installed utilizing licensed microwave frequencies which are far less susceptible to interference. This project is expected to be started in October, 2011.

Thompson Peak Communications Facility Improvements – this joint project with the Arizona Department of Public Safety will construct a new 250-foot radio tower, equipment building, and emergency generator on Thompson Peak, which the TRWC's primary backup and wide-area coverage site. A contractor has been engaged, and is ready to begin construction. The start of construction is on hold until an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is executed between the City of Mesa (as Administrative Manager for the TRWC) and Maricopa County. The current forecast for the execution of the IGA is September, 2011, with construction starting in October, 2011.

Inter Sub Site Interface (ISSI) – this project will implement “system of systems” networking to provide interoperability with other regional communications systems, such as the Yuma Regional Communications System (YRCS), which hosts the Arizona Department of Public Safety and Arizona Department of Transportation, the Phoenix Regional Wireless Cooperative (RWC), and future systems, such as Maricopa County. This project is on hold pending further discussion by the TRWC Executive Committee and with the other interoperability participants.

Public Safety Wireless Broadband – this is the Long Term Evolution (LTE) project which will provide wireless broadband services to Public Safety users. This project is on hold pending a ruling by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding the limitation of the use of the 700 MHz frequencies for this service to first responders only. This has a significant impact on the number of users that can share the costs of such a network, which upon initial analysis are prohibitively expensive for a system to provide coverage for the TRWC. The FCC ruling is expected “in a few weeks”.