

Press Release

High Speed Fiber Expected to Increase Underground Excavation in 2015 Google “Fiberhood” and AT&T “GigaPower” leading the charge in central North Carolina

Greensboro, NC September 2, 2014: Underground stakeholders in North Carolina have been growing accustomed to experiencing increases in the volume of excavation requests over the past few years. The MCNC Rural Fiber initiative was a single 28 million dollar project that involved underground fiber connecting schools and rural communities and helped boost the dig request volume to 20% increases in affected areas. All indications are that this project represented a foreshadowing of a much greater fiber initiative being launched by Google and AT&T.

AT&T reported on July 30, 2014 that they were expanding their “GigaPower” network to the City of Charlotte. AT&T is considering other candidates in North Carolina as well, such as Apex, Garner, Gastonia, Greensboro, Huntersville and Mooresville. In addition to this project, U-verse and 4g LTE wireless services are also being expanded throughout the state.

Google also announced cities in nine metro areas being considered for Google Fiber. Two major markets were Raleigh/Durham and Charlotte. And don’t count out other major providers in the state. Competition drives the telecommunication industry and bringing high speed fiber connectivity to homes is steadily becoming a necessary function of all companies.

So what does this mean for North Carolina and specifically damage prevention? “On the one hand this is great news in terms of potential jobs and revenue to the state,” Louis Panzer, Executive Director of NC811 states. “On the other hand underground stakeholders, including municipal and other utilities and their locators, should brace themselves for an increase in the amount of locate requests expected for 2015. While the exact figures remain unknown it should not be considered an unforeseen or extraordinary circumstance when the volume increases in the wake of these projects.”

As more information becomes publicly available, NC811 will share the details as well as impacts on volume with members and the media.

North Carolina 811, Inc. is the not-for-profit notification center serving the state of North Carolina with excavation notifications and education. For more information visit our website at www.nc811.org