

A worker in a white hard hat and a high-visibility vest is standing in a field, holding a large coil of black fiber optic cable. In the background, there are wind turbines and a construction vehicle.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and WCFIBER

Deliver Fiber and Smart Grid Services

When the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and broadband partner WCFIBER sought to use broadband funding to deliver Smart Grid and Fiber to the Home (FTTH) across the county, they needed the right fiber infrastructure and network access, backed by committed service and support teams. Conterra was able to service and support the partnership throughout a successful implementation utilizing the existing dark fiber network throughout the county.

PROBLEM 1: Rural American homes lack fiber service

Bringing FTTH to rural America remains a challenge for today's modern economy. To allow all people, regardless of where they live, to compete on the same level technologically, wide-bandwidth fiber optic networks must be designed for and installed throughout rural communities.

PROBLEM 2: Rural power grids are in need of upgrading

Smart Grid technology is an advanced electricity network that utilizes digital tools to effectively and efficiently monitor, manage, and transport electricity from generation sources to residential and business consumers according to fluctuations in demand. As rural communities are often served by outdated grid technology, the expansion of Smart Grid into underserved areas is needed.

PROBLEM 3: Rural counties require higher-quality telecommunications services

BREC and WCFIBER needed to provide advanced, high quality, scalable, reliable telecommunications services to all businesses and residences throughout the county, but did not have access to sufficient bandwidth or the right network infrastructure.



CONTERRA'S SOLUTION

By providing Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) of fiber tubes throughout our county-wide network, Conterra delivered all required fiber optic infrastructure for BREC and WCFIBER to deploy Smart Grid and FTTH technologies to previously unserved communities. Key to the project's success was providing sufficient access points to the network along with OSP, service, and support teams.

RESULTS AND KPIS

Conterra's fiber network infrastructure and related support systems and teams were a perfect fit to match the partnership's unique Smart Grid and FTTH funding requirements. Funding was approved to bring broadband to every location within the county and timely implementation quickly delivered services to all targeted locations.

Successful Key Performance Indicators from the implementation included:

- ✓ Time to Market
- ✓ Network Resiliency
- ✓ Service Uptime
- ✓ Service Delivery Capability
- ✓ Operational Support



Future solutions for BREC and WCFIBER

Moving forward, the BREC/WCFIBER partnership plans to contract additional network access through Conterra as funding for further expansion becomes available. This service model creates a fast-to-market solution that delivers Smart Grid, FTTH, and communication services faster and at a lower cost to local businesses and residences than the competition, which protects the region from legacy or external providers who are not fully committed to serving the community long-term.

Contact Us

Trust our reliable fiber optic network, supported by our team of local experts, so you can focus on what you do best — growing your business.

