



Fiber-to-the-Home Project Frequently Asked Questions

What is “Fiber-to-the-Home”?

3 Rivers Communications is bringing fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) technology to many of its exchanges. This involves replacing the existing copper wire network with fiber optic cable and directly to residential and commercial buildings. Fiber optic cable is capable of delivering data at high speeds and has a much greater bandwidth capacity than copper.

What are the advantages of having fiber run directly to my home or business?

By providing fiber optic cable “to the home,” 3 Rivers will be able to deliver digital voice service and high speed Internet over one line and will still have room for any new telecommunication technologies that may be developed in the foreseeable future.

What other benefits will FTTH bring?

By upgrading to FTTH, 3 Rivers will be able to provide the absolute latest technology for the next generation, which could lead to increased property values and promote economic development.

Where will the new fiber be installed?

The new cable will run underground directly to residential and commercial buildings.

Does any special equipment need to be installed in or on my house?

3 Rivers will need to place a new device called an ONT (optic network terminal) and other equipment at your home or business. This may or may not be where the old connection was, depending upon several factors. A separate power source will also need to be placed inside the premises within 50’ of the ONT. This power source has battery backup power for the new equipment we are providing to avoid a disruption during a power outage – and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services. This is necessary because the copper wiring previously used carried enough power to make things work without a separate source. The backup batteries are expected to provide up to two hours of talk time. More information on battery backup is available on 3rivers.net. The cost of the additional power needed for this device will be negligible. In some cases new wiring inside the house will be required to ensure that service can be delivered at the desired level of quality, which 3 Rivers will provide at no cost.

What about my personal property?

Property owners are required to allow access and right of way as needed for upgrades such as this as a condition of membership in the cooperative. 3 Rivers will make every effort to leave personal property in good repair at the end of the project.

Do I have a choice in allowing this upgrade to done?

No. When the existing copper network in a given exchange is replaced, the only way to continue to receive local landline voice service from 3 Rivers will be via the new fiber optic cable. This is the case regardless of whether or not you subscribe to any advanced service, such as high speed Internet, that 3 Rivers offers.

**If you have more questions, please contact 3 Rivers Communications
at 406-467-2535 or 1-800-796-4567.**