



## **McCormick County living on the fast fiber lane**

*Latest project puts McCormick County with 99% fiber connection*

**February 13, 2024**

*Abbeville, SC* -- McCormick County is set to become one of the most fiber connected counties in South Carolina.

WCFIBER, together with McCormick County Council and the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff Broadband Office, is ensuring that remaining unserved and underserved areas of the county have access to high-speed fiber internet.

With this latest project completion, McCormick County has approximately 50 or fewer addresses that don't have connection out of approximately 6,700 addresses.

"Our story started 71 years ago in bringing vital communications services to our cooperative areas of Abbeville, McCormick and Anderson counties," says Jeff Wilson, WCFIBER CEO. "We are excited to extend our services within these areas. To think that these rural areas have access to state-of-the-art high-speed internet that rivals – if not exceeds – that of this country's most urban areas is so gratifying and underscores our mission. I can't thank McCormick County and the State of South Carolina enough."

Since 2008 WCTEL and subsidiary WCFIBER have invested approximately \$27.5 million on fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) projects within McCormick County.

"This is a great day for McCormick County," says McCormick County Chairman Charles Jennings. "With the completion of this project, the saying, "anything is possible," rings true. McCormick County is about rural living, a slower pace, access to our great lakes and family legacies. High-speed internet opens up opportunity for us. We can live here and never lose our connections to each other – and the world."

McCormick County District 5 Council Member Jackie Brown says McCormick County could be a model for rural counties across the country. "This project is an example of the power of partnerships. When public and private entities come together and roll up our sleeves to improve services to people in our communities, great things happen. Potential is born. Futures are brighter. Sustainability and vitality become not a hope, but reality."

Columbus M. Stephens, McCormick County Administrator, said the digital divide across America is real, and to see McCormick County as a model for others is the realization of determination, hard work and stellar partnerships. "Finally, this dream has become a reality, thanks to WCTEL investments in McCormick County, whereby 99 percent of the county is covered with broadband," Stephens said. "This

milestone has created opportunities that would not have existed otherwise. Thanks to leadership across the county, state and federal level, we've connected the underserved and enabled a gigabit future for all Americans."

**About WCFIBER**

The WCTEL family of companies, including WCTEL, WCFIBER, and Upcountry Fiber, combine a tradition of service with the best technology available. Friendly, community-minded employees are committed to building a fiber network that is ready for whatever the future of technology may hold. The fiber optic network provides voice, data, video, security, and hosted business services in upstate South Carolina to include McCormick County, Abbeville County, and the city of Newberry as well as parts of Anderson County, Greenwood County, Oconee County, Pickens County, Greenville County, Spartanburg County, and Columbia County, GA. To find out more about WCTEL, visit [www.wctel.com](http://www.wctel.com). WCTEL is designated as a nationally recognized Smart Rural Community and Certified Gig-Capable Provider by NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association.

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