

AN INDIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PUBLICATION



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Oklahoma Living Magazine

# 1,000 miles TO EVERYWHERE

**IEC has built more than 1,000 miles of the fiber network. That's about 1/3 of our service area. By December 2026, 60 percent will be complete, with construction of the final third starting early next year.**

Progress to Indian Electric Cooperative's fiber network means connectivity for our residential members. It also gives critical lifelines to schools and hospitals, emergency services and provides a huge economic boost for areas with less dense populations.

"One of the first things people ask realtors is 'will there be broadband access?'" IEC CEO Todd Schroeder said. "Now, rural communities can attract younger families wanting to work remotely. It helps small towns retain industries, and it gives connection to small businesses to make worldwide sales. All those things are critical to keeping rural towns from becoming ghost towns."

When IEC's board of directors made the decision to begin building a fiber network, it did so with one thing in mind – the members.

"Our members wanted it and no one was bringing it to them," Schroeder said. "It helps members in two ways – the cooperative has a fiber network that it owns, maintains and controls, which we can lease to Cox Communications to provide Internet service. And our employees are prepared for the future with a state-of-the-art communications tool to keep up with demand."



The tech world is moving fast, and an IEC fiber network keeps cooperative assets from falling behind.

With federal and state grants, the choice was clear. All the years of planning, government applications submitted and red tape to jump through, is all worth it, he said.

"Our employees, our leadership and our members all should be proud of reaching this first milestone," Schroeder said. "We're not slowing down."

# The Route to 1,000

## How Indian Electric Cooperative and Cox Communications are building the future of connectivity - mile by mile, neighbor by neighbor

In today's world, reliable broadband access is as essential as electricity itself. For Indian Electric Cooperative (IEC), ensuring members have access to modern infrastructure has always been part of its mission, and that commitment now extends far beyond the power lines.

Through a strategic partnership with Cox Communications, IEC has built more than 1,000 miles of fiber infrastructure, creating a future-ready backbone that brings highspeed internet service to rural and underserved communities throughout the cooperative's territory.

This cooperative fiber effort combines IEC's long-standing expertise in building and maintaining critical infrastructure with Cox's proven ability to deliver fast,

reliable broadband directly to homes and businesses. The result is a network designed to support education, healthcare, economic development, and everyday life - today and for generations to come.

**“This project is about building opportunity for our members - today & well into the future.”**

-- Todd Schroeder

CEO, Indian Electric Cooperative

### From Vision to Milestone

What began as a bold idea is now a major milestone for IEC members and communities alike.

With 1,000 miles of fiber constructed, Cox Communications has already connected its 1,000th customer within the IEC service area, each connection representing a household or business gaining access to high speed, symmetrical internet service.

These milestones reflect more than numbers. They represent students participating in online learning, families accessing telehealth services, small businesses expanding their reach, and rural communities staying connected to what matters most.

### Milestone Snapshot



1,000 miles of IEC-built fiber



1,000 Cox customers now connected



Multi-gig, symmetrical speeds available



**“I live in IEC's rural community, and it means a lot to me to have a role in providing opportunities for my neighbors to connect to the world.”**

-- Josh S.  
Indian Electric Cooperative

### Connecting Communities, Not Just Networks

The impact of broadband expansion goes beyond infrastructure. As service areas come online, IEC and Cox have worked closely with local leaders, residents, and community partners to ensure connectivity translates into real-world benefits.

From cooperative communications that keep members informed, to community engagement efforts tied to service launches, the partnership emphasizes transparency, trust, and local connection. These efforts help ensure members understand not only where service is available today, but where it's headed next.

**Communities have trusted Cox for generations, and we're honored to work alongside IEC to deliver powerful connectivity that strengthens local opportunity."**

-- Roger Ramseyer  
Market VP, Cox Communications

### Built for What's Next

Reaching the 1,000 mile and 1,000 customer milestones is not the finish line, it's the foundation.

IEC will continue expanding its fiber backbone while retaining ownership of the network as a cooperative asset. At the same time, Cox will continue activating new service phases, bringing affordable, high speed internet access to additional IEC members as construction progresses.

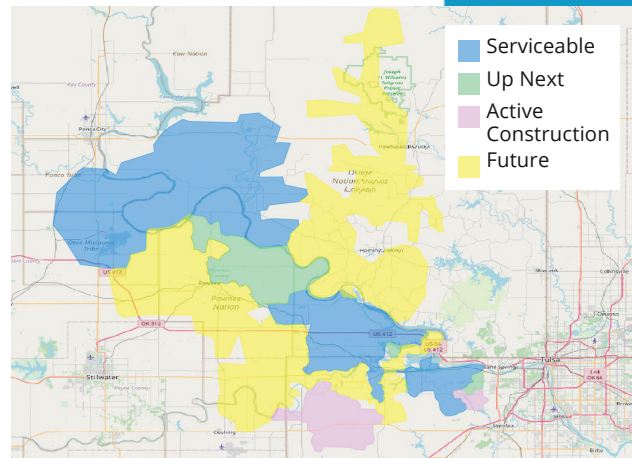
Together, IEC and Cox are building a network designed not just for today's needs, but for the future demands of smart homes, remote work, advanced healthcare, and emerging technologies.

**When customers see you're truly looking out for their best interests, trust follows - and strong relationships grow from there."**

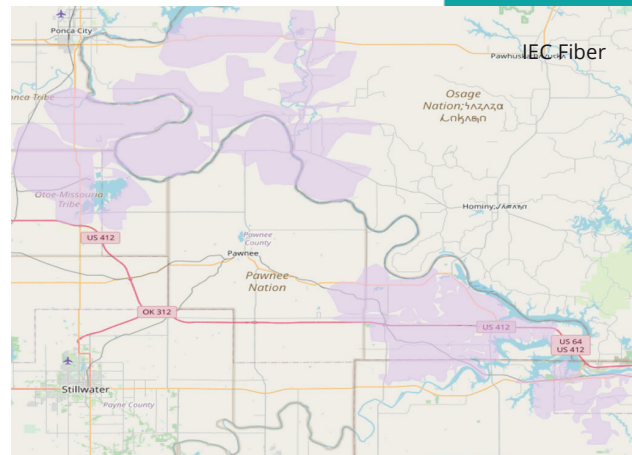


-- Sam Morrison  
Sales Rep, Cox Communications

### Cox Serviceability Area



### IEC Fiber Backbone Map



Disclaimer: Maps are an approximate visual representation and do not reflect exact borders.

**The route to 1,000 miles proves what's possible when cooperation meets innovation. The road ahead is just getting started.**

To learn more about products and services offered by Cox, please visit [www.cox.com/OKRoute](http://www.cox.com/OKRoute) or scan the QR code.





IEC and Cox Communications recently partnered to celebrate a major milestone of completing 1,000 miles of fiber infrastructure with a meaningful investment in local schools.

We visited four schools located within the newly serviceable fiber footprint, bringing with them tools to enhance learning. Each school library – **Keystone, Frontier, Pawnee and Jennings** – received Chromebooks from IEC, and from Cox, iPads, an interactive robotic dog for STEM education and a \$250 gift card to support additional needs.

This initiative reflects a core purpose behind the fiber buildout: improving access to education in rural, underserved communities. Reliable Internet access is essential for students to succeed both in the classroom and at home.

“Education was a major factor when weighing whether to build a fiber network,” IEC Director of Fiber Operations Jamie Garrison said. “Empowering the next generation benefits all of society.”

The schools selected for this celebration operate on limited budgets, making contributions like these especially impactful. Together, IEC and Cox are not only expanding broadband infrastructure and delivering connectivity but also investing directly in the students and educators who will benefit most from it.

“Connecting rural America with high-speed internet isn’t just about providing technology, it’s about opening doors to brighter futures for every community we are humbled to serve,” Cox Communications Market Vice President Roger Ramseyer said.



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