

P 25 Digital Two-way Radio Project Update

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From: Gary A. Hoffman, Director of Communications

To: All Users

We continue to move ahead with our “drive testing” to find areas of poor coverage and how the digital system performs compared to the current Analog networks.

So far, we are very impressed with the results of our testing. We’ve found places where the analog simulcast UHF network does not work at all, but in the P25 digital mode it is full quieting.

There are also areas where neither provides adequate coverage, but we need to evaluate what the challenges are in an attempt to improve coverage. Many factors are taken into consideration; expense and what the likelihood is that we’re going to require coverage in those areas.

We awarded the next phase of our P25 Digital Radio network implementation to establish an eighth (8th) tower site in the West End of the County, specifically in Eldred Township.

This site is critical to addressing a serious coverage issue along the base of the Blue Mountain, which separates Monroe, Carbon and Northampton Counties.

This site will address two problems:

1. It will improve two-way radio coverage along the base of the Blue Mountain from the Carbon County line east.
2. This site will help us mitigate the loss of a current tower site in Carbon County that has been determined to have structural deficiencies.

We will continue to look to other opportunities to enhance coverage. It should go without saying that we can’t possibly solve every potential coverage problem, but where we can, and where it is affordable, we will do our best to do so.

We’re attempting to schedule a special Fire Chief’s meeting to educate them on P25 digital and trunking and the features that both have to offer over the conventional Analog radio system. We will be setting up similar educational sessions with the other public safety officials as we move forward.

I’ll continue to keep those who are interested up-to-date on our progress.

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