

## Advocating for Electric Reliability, **Together**



**Shaun Lamp**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

There's no doubt that America's energy system is going through a fundamental transformation. This transformation must be managed carefully, with a balanced approach that considers reliability, environmental impact, and affordability.

Lately, it's becoming evident that the balance is off, and electric reliability is at stake. Electric grids are becoming stressed as baseload powerplants (mainly coal plants but also nuclear) are being closed before their replacements are ready to be deployed.

In June, we asked for your assistance lobbying the Michigan Public Service Commission, state legislators, and Governor Whitmer. You helped us ask them to prevent the premature closure of the Campbell coal plant owned by Consumers Energy.

We explained our concern about the possibility of rolling blackouts this summer and in future summers. The ask was to build replacement generation before shutting off more 24/7/365 generation. It was all about keeping the lights on, which has been this cooperative's mission since 1938.

I am happy to report that Great Lakes Energy members, along with members of several other Michigan electric cooperatives, answered the call.

Almost 8,000 individuals generated a total of 44,282 emails to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), state representatives, senators, and the Governor through the Voice for Cooperative Power platform. It was the largest response the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has ever seen on a single advocacy issue.

Unfortunately, the MPSC approved the early retirement of power plants that are essential to sustaining electric reliability. The good news is that policymakers clearly heard your voice, which is critical as we continue to advocate for reliability.

I am proud of the cooperative members across the state for taking action on such a large scale. We proved that the grassroots could be mobilized quickly and in meaningful numbers. We were a united team working for an important goal—reliability. Today, I thank every member who answered the call when we needed you the most.



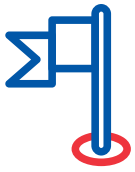
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### JOIN TODAY

[VOICESFORCOOPERATIVEPOWER.COM](http://VOICESFORCOOPERATIVEPOWER.COM)

VCP is a network of electric co-op members working together to influence public policy decisions that impact our co-ops and our way of life.



# Truestream Construction Marks Major Milestones



**Just like you need a good set of blueprints before you build a house, it's important for us to have solid data in hand to plan for the continued expansion of the Truestream fiber internet network.**

The first step in bringing Truestream to new area is a process known as fielding work and our crews have been and will be doing a lot of it this year.

During this phase we collect data, including the type of residence, pole information, and other data related to infrastructure. This data helps us determine the feasibility and design for expanding Truestream, including mapping out infrastructure needs and how to get the fiber lines to members' homes. This data, along with several other factors, such as demand, funding availability, and constructability of an area are used to determine where the network will be expanded next.

Earlier this year crews completed fielding work in the Waters Service Area and the Kalkaska Service Area. That leaves the Scottville and Reed City service areas as the only two Truestream service areas where fielding work is yet to be completed. Work in the Scottville Service Area has already begun and is expected to begin soon in the Reed City Service Area.

We are encouraging members in areas not yet served by Truestream to share their interest in the service by creating or logging into their online account to help us determine where we go next.

Plans for where construction will take place in 2023 are currently being developed and will be announced as soon as they are complete.

After long-awaited construction permits that had delayed construction in the Newaygo and Middleville areas finally came through in February, mainline construction is now under way in the Newaygo 1, Casnovia 1 and 4, Brohman 2, and White Cloud 3 circuits. Construction is also taking place on the Hesperia 1 and 2, Burnips 2 and 4 and Middleville 1 and 3 circuits. **Visit [truestreamfiber.com/status-map/](https://truestreamfiber.com/status-map/)** to see what area your address falls under and its construction phase.

Construction is expected to soon begin on the Wayland 1 and Eastport 3 circuits.

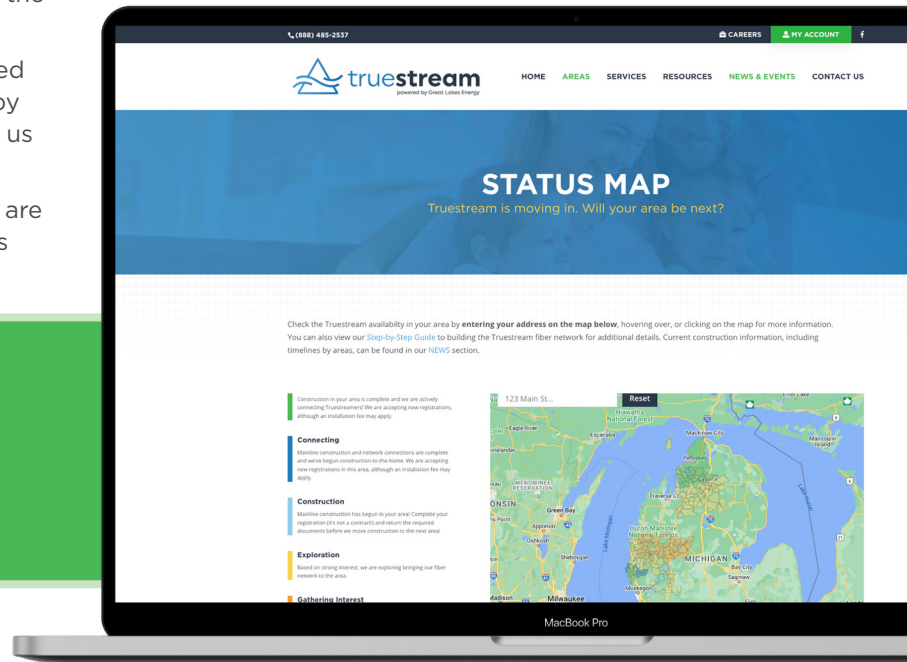
Mainline construction is complete, and drops are being installed in the Hart 3, Hesperia 4, Silver Lake 1, 3, and 4, and Central Lake 4 circuits.

▶ Construction updates are posted regularly at [truestreamfiber.com/news/](https://truestreamfiber.com/news/).



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Share your interest today  
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