

Dickey Rural Networks Timeline

July 26, 1950 – The first meeting of a group of people interested in organizing a telephone cooperative in Dickey County was held at the Dickey County courthouse in Ellendale.

November 2, 1950 – Incorporation papers were signed, and Dickey Rural Telephone (DRT) became the first organization of its kind.

November 10, 1950 – The new cooperative filed Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State.

November 17, 1950 – The first official meeting of the board of directors was held.

February 15, 1951 – Representatives from DRT met at Omaha, Nebraska, with representatives from Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and the Rural Electrification Administration to discuss the preliminary plans of North Dakota's new telephone cooperative.

June 12, 1951 – The first annual meeting of the cooperative was held

August 21, 1951 – Headquarters were first established in Ellendale at 121 Main Street

July 27, 1951 – Approval of the first loan to DRT was announced by REA for the sum of \$ 1,467,000.

November 24, 1951 – The note was signed by the cooperative's board of directors and DRT Mutual Aid Corporation became the recipient of the first REA telephone loan made in North Dakota

January 28, 1952 – C.C. Mitchell hired as the first manager.

June 1952 – Acquired first properties

August 7, 1952 – First bids for construction of new lines were let

September 25, 1952 – Baldwin Building on Main Street in Ellendale was purchased to provide more space for the growing organization.

December 8, 1952 – A contract was awarded for the manufacture and installation of switchboards for all of its, then fifteen, exchanges.

July 1, 1953 – subscribers on the Verona switcher line became the first in the Dickey Telephone service area to receive modern dial service

March 1961 – Headquarters building sustained heavy smoke damage due to fire.

January 27, 1963 – First significant growth occurred when cooperative gained 152 subscribers with the acquisition of the Fort Ransom exchange.

October 1963 – Dickey decides to put five miles of line underground at Litchville. Project was completed November 15, 1963

December 1965 – Sleet storm cost cooperative an estimated \$125,000 in damage.

November 1969 – Two-way radio system was installed in all company vehicles and at headquarters

April & May 1970 – Verona, Fredonia, and Marion were purchased from Northwestern Bell, and the subscribers on the switcher lines at Ellendale, Ashley, Kulm, Lehr, Oakes, and Wishek were transferred to Northwestern Bell.

February 25, 1971 – the Milnor exchange became the first operated by Dickey Rural Telephone to be cut over to buried plant and one-party service

January 18, 1973 – 15 of the cooperative's 16 exchanges had been converted to buried plant and one-party service.

January 1977 – the Fort Ransom exchange was converted

June 11, 1979 – Construction was started on a new headquarters building on Highway 281 north of Ellendale

August 22, 1980 – New headquarters was completed

April 28, 1981 – Dickey Rural Services, Inc. was formed to provide cable television service to Milnor, Forman, Gwinner, Wyndmere, Marion, and Litchville.

April 17, 1985 – Digital switching was installed at Dickey and Marion

1988 - Fiber optic facility was installed.

1987 - Fiber optic facility placed in service.

1995 – Launched Dial-Up Internet

June 1996 – DRT purchased US West properties in Ashley, Ellendale, Kulm, Edgeley, LaMoure, Oakes, and Forman areas. Over 6,000 access lines were gained.

1997 – Dickey Rural Services became an Internet Service Provider.

September 3, 1997 – New digital lineless host switch was put into service.

1999 – deployment of OC-48 – OC3 redundant fiber optic ring

August 2000 – Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative along with its subsidiaries, Dickey Rural Communications and Dickey Rural Services, teamed up to market their services and products under name of Dickey Rural Networks.

May 2001- DRN deployed digital subscriber line (DSL) called *ExpressNet*. DRN's new High Speed Internet service provides fast, rapid, direct Internet access.

November 1, 2002 – Lisbon and Gwinner exchanges were purchased from Citizens Communications, now owned by Dickey Rural Access

2002 – Board of Directors evaluated the current and future building needs of the Cooperative. They elected to add on to the current building; once the addition is complete extensive remodeling was done to existing office space.

2003 – Planning began for the Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) project

- Started in Lisbon, Oakes, Ellendale
- Offering the Triple Play TV, Phone Internet

April 2004 – DRN introduces Paks, which bundle together local telephone service, Internet, custom calling features and where available television. Pick-A-Pak promotion.

June 2006 – Unlimited Long Distance service offered through North Dakota Long Distance (NDLD)

- Launched SecureIT

July 2006 – FTTH build out to Milnor, Forman, LaMoure and Gwinner

2007 – DRTC acquired additional 700 megahertz spectrum, by doing so we are positioning the company to deliver the latest technologies including wireless internet.

- FTTH project to Fort Ransom, Kathryn, Litchville, Marion, rural LaMoure

End of 2007- DRN rolls out high-definition television programming to customers

- Over 6,000 premises had FTTH access

2008 – DRN partners with BEK Spots to bring local content to communities it serves.

- Dickey, rural Forman and rural Milnor FTTH installed

– Purchased Midco services offered TV in Ashley and Lamoure.

End of 2008 – DRTC continues to replace aged copper with Fiber to the Home technology. Fiber optic is installed to 73 percent of subscriber premises.

2010 – Started offering Wireless Phone

- Launched a managed service subsidiary, ReadiTech

2011 – Brought Dickey Rural Access and Dickey Rural Communications into the Cooperative

April 2012 – Completed the FTTH Project to 100% of territory, an 8-year project.

March 2013 – Invested in US Connect Holdings, Inc.

2014 – Bylaw change to downsize districts/Board

2019 – Purchased Managed IT company in Aberdeen to expand ReadiTech

2018 – Gig service offered.

- March 1 DRN TV became all digital.

2019 – Purchased Managed IT company in Fargo and Grand Forks to expand ReadiTech

- Elected ACAM 2.0

2020 – Upgraded to 10 Gig Internet

- Invested in CLEC ReadiTech Fiber, Casselton and restored old Dairy Queen building.

2021- Launched ReadiTech Engineering

- Expanded CLEC into Mapleton and Horace

2023 – Redundant Fiber Transport Kulm to Nelvik

- Added fiber ring from Lisbon to Horace

2024 - Upgrading 100 GIG network to 400