



AWIN UPGRADE PROGRESS REPORT

The massive, statewide upgrade to the AWIN system is progressing quickly with focus shifting now to replacement of microwave equipment. First up: the Northwest microwave ring design has been finalized, the equipment ordered, and is presently with Aviat Networks for staging. The equipment is scheduled for shipping at the end of September.

Next, the Northeast MW ring design is nearing completion and is scheduled for final review in late September. Staging of the equipment will be scheduled thereafter with a goal to ship by the end of the year.

Last but not least, the Southern MW ring design is not yet confirmed but is planned for January 2022, with shipping approximated for March 2022.

Replacement of microwave hops (communication links from one tower to the next via antennae) in the Northwest ring is slated for the beginning of January 2022 on a hop-by-hop basis. As hops are replaced, it is not anticipated that the ring will have any sites down, but the ring will not have the same loop protection for a brief period.

TDMA optimization continues to move quickly on a site-by-site basis with 15 sites left to complete. Site optimizations takes 4 to 6 hours and is a scheduled activity for which AWIN Alerts are sent.

As part of the upgrade, sites will be taken down singly to replace antennae and lines at the 48 locations where QUANTAR base stations have been replaced with GTR 8000's, starting with Katie's Knob in Johnson County in September. This task will take considerable time to complete at all locations. Many AWIN tower sites were built in the 1980s and will require some structural work to pass inspection before these changes can be made. Replacement of antennae and lines on a remediated tower takes at least 8 to 12 hours. This is also a scheduled activity for which AWIN Alerts are sent.

To sign up for AWIN Alerts, email AWIN.Operations@adem.arkansas.gov. Include your mobile number if you would like to receive alerts by text.