Arkansas BEAD Program

Frequently Asked Questions Document 50

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Arkansas 811 Questions

1. How do ISPs formally notify Arkansas 811 ahead of a project?
ISPs can reach out directly to Arkansas 811 via email or phone to give advance notice and coordinate a pre-construction meeting, which covers key compliance topics, including applicable laws, ticket validity, white-lining. Contacts are Mike Gowen (mgowen@arkansas811.com, (501) 472-1005) and Kristin Bryant (kbryant@arkonecall.com, (501) 328-2545).

ARDOT Questions

2. Who is a "local permit officer" for ARDOT?
The local permit officer is the regional district permit officer for the area where work is being performed. If work is in city or county jurisdictions, different permitting officers apply. ARDOT's role is specific to highway right-of-way permitting.

3. What is the average ARDOT permit turnaround time?
ARDOT aims to turn around permit requests within two weeks, moving faster when possible. Applications involving longer routes, bridge attachments, or controlled access complexity may take a month or longer.

4. Who qualifies as a utility representative on a permit application?
Any individual who directly represents the utility, such as an engineer, permit technician, or other company employee. Consultants working on behalf of the company do not qualify as utility representatives.

5. How does ARDOT handle dark fiber partnerships with the state on highway right-of-way?
Right-of-use agreements with state agencies apply only to fully-controlled access right-of-way (i.e., interstates). Perpendicular crossings are permitted, but parallel routing along fully-controlled access requires a Right-of-Use agreement. ARDOT will consult with their Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) team to deliver agreement terms that accommodate future state fiber needs. Exact BEAD fiber requirements were not confirmed and should be verified separately.

a. Who covers materials and labor costs if fully-controlled right-of-way access is granted?
Costs related to right-of-way agreements are the ISP's responsibility.

b. Is separate fiber required?
A separate duct is not required. Fiber can run within an existing duct and be spliced out to meet agreement terms.

6. Should providers register for ARDOT project updates even if they don't need an ARDOT permit?
Yes. Registration is recommended regardless of immediate permit needs. Through the Districts tab on the website tool, providers can view county-level maps with color-coded routes showing planned ARDOT work and projected contract timelines. This gives ISPs useful advance visibility into upcoming projects that may affect their deployment plans.