

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative (ACEC) is a member-owned not for profit cooperative formed in 1938. A nine-member board of directors governs Allamakee-Clayton Electric. A General Manager leads a six person management team. In total, ACEC employs 41 full time employees. These nine are fellow members of ACEC, represent 3 districts, and are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the members. ACEC provides electric service to more than 10,000 services over an 8-county rural area.

**Our Mission:**

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our members, partners and neighbors by providing safe, reliable and affordable electric services and other innovative solutions.

ACEC has been in the communications business for many years, initially as a DirecTV franchisee and subsequently as a satellite-based internet provider. ACEC has been providing satellite internet services from 2005 to present. Service as initially offered as WildBlue, later Exede, and currently Viasat internet. After several years of experience with satellite internet, we realized some limitations of the service and began looking at alternatives. In 2013, another ISP began providing wireless internet service from a tower in Allamakee county. We began exploring the possibility of providing the same type of wireless service. In 2013, ACEC partnered with Hawkeye Telephone to begin deployment of wireless internet.

ACEC deployed fiberoptic cable connecting from a local fiber ring to the cooperative office. ACEC began building wireless internet access points in Allamakee county.

Over the course of the last six years, ACEC has provided service to more than 600 wireless customers in Northeast Iowa.

ACEC has been looking for opportunities to provide FTTH internet service to underserved areas in Northeast Iowa. The City of Waukon began discussions on the prospect of ACEC providing fiber to their city in 2017. ACEC has been researching cost effective ways to deploy fiber and advance the community ever since. In 2014, Power Systems Engineering (an engineering firm out of Madison, WI) provide a study and cost estimate for providing FTTH to all ACEC electric customers. In 2018, we had PULSE Broadband (a fiber infrastructure company owned by a Cooperative affiliated with ACEC) provide a FTTH estimate for the city of Waukon. From both studies, it was determined that FTTH projects are cost prohibitive without some form of cost sharing by Federal or State grants, or other mechanisms.

ACEC was recently awarded a OCIO grant for a Phase 1 build in Waukon that opens up 298 passings of businesses and households. This Phase 1 project is the starter for the proposed project.