

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## First Meeting Held to Discuss Critical ICN Legislation

(Des Moines, IA; 11/15/11) – The first meeting to discuss the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the sale or lease of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) was held on Monday, November 14.

The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (Commission), ICN's governing body, conducted the first of many RFP Implementation Team (RIT) meetings to discuss the legislative language that was passed in House File 45 during the 2011 legislative session. The RIT team is tasked with providing advice regarding the specific definitions and assumptions for current unidentified aspects of the law.

“The RIT function will play a critical role in meeting milestones and timelines,” said Dave Lingren, ICN's Executive Director. “Our goal is to receive a broad range of input from stakeholders to build the foundation for a fair, open, and transparent process. The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission will depend on the team for guidance to comply with the requirements of House File 45.”

The 10-member team, representing key organizations and agencies, long-term deliverable will be to compile a comprehensive assumptions document outlining all discussion and input throughout the team's process, which will be used by the Commission in the construction of the RFP for the sale or lease of the Network. The team discussed extensively the history of the ICN, provided an overview of ICN's services and the Network, and the overall objective. Fiberutilities Group of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been retained by the Commission, as a neutral party, to be the Project Manager for the sale or lease of the Network, which entails researching and assembling the overall RFP.

The RIT meetings are open to the public through attendance at the Grimes State Office Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Thompson Conference Room, Des Moines, IA, or at any available video sites across the state. To attend the meetings, please contact ICN's Executive Liaison, Jontell Harris at 515-725-1102, or 877-426-4692 toll free, or e-mail [jontell.harris@iowa.gov](mailto:jontell.harris@iowa.gov). For additional information about the meeting participants, dates, locations, and handouts provided to attendees, visit [www.icn.state.ia.us/itc/RFPImplementationTeam](http://www.icn.state.ia.us/itc/RFPImplementationTeam).

The ICN, a State of Iowa agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancements of distance learning and providing Iowans with equal access to education, healthcare, and government through Internet, data, voice, and video conferencing services. For more information about the ICN visit [www.icn.state.ia.us](http://www.icn.state.ia.us).

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