## Pole Disputes Delay High-Speed Internet Access for Over a Year



Over 2,000 South Carolinians in York County have experienced needless delays in broadband connectivity because York Electric Cooperative won't allow access to it's poles.





Spectrum Southeast



York Electric Cooperative

2.000+ Residents Affected

15+ Month Project Delay

Monopoly pole owners must be held accountable to ensure people across America have access to reliable, high-speed internet as quickly as possible. Federal and state policymakers should make pole owners follow consistent rules.

Oct. 2021 May 2022 June-Nov. 2022 Dec. 2022 Jan. 2023



Spectrum makes a formal request to York **Electric Cooperative** to negotiate a new pole attachment agreement that complies with South Carolina's Broadband Accessibility Act (BAA).



Negotiations reach an impasse after six months when York Electric Cooperative demands new and unreasonable construction requirements that exceed wellestablished National Electric Safety Code (NESC) requirements, as commonly used across the country and sensibly incorporated into the BAA.



In accordance with **BAA** authorized process. Spectrum files a petition at the South Carolina's Public Service Commission (PSC) challenging York Electric Cooperative's unreasonable construction requirements in the new pole attachment agreement.



PSC conducts extensive regulatory review of disputed issue which includes solicitina testimony from expert witnesses and holding multi-day hearings to determine appropriate terms for pole attachment agreement.



The PSC issues an order requiring York **Electric Cooperative** to allow Spectrum to access its poles and allow attachment under the existing NESC standard "in an effort to meet the stated objective of the BAA to efficiently deploy broadband service in unserved areas across the state."



York Electric Cooperative's petition for rehearing is denied by the PSC. More than 15 months after Spectrum's initial request for pole access, York has not granted access, impacting deployment to 2,000 residents.