

UTILITIES

Belmont County can help lower operating costs and increase profits. Utility companies servicing the county have an excellent reputation for providing high quality service at a fair price. Rates are competitive within the state and nation. These companies each support development and are eager to assist any potential developer in Belmont County.

COMMUNICATIONS

As the primary, communication company servicing most of Belmont County, SBC is committed to keeping the area in the mainstream of expanding telecommunications technology. The area is presently served by eight SBC digital switching offices which are capable of providing state of the art technology, including a variety of advanced custom calling and digital services for homes and businesses. SBC's commitment to the Belmont County area is to provide quality, advanced communication services that will enable existing businesses to expand and potential businesses to relocate to the area with the knowledge that they will have a direct on-ramp to tomorrow's information highway.

Belmont County benefits from an aggressive SBC investment schedule, which is designed to accommodate future growth and expand services. SBC has completed construction of a high capacity fiber optic network, which is available to all secondary schools, libraries, hospitals, colleges, and universities and all county, state, and federal buildings within its' service area in Belmont County.

Comcast Cable Communications is a dedicated cable and high-speed Internet service provider for a majority of Belmont County. Servicing the tri-state area, Comcast offers many different levels of service to both commercial and residential customers. This includes digital cable, high definition television, on demand and pay-per-view programming. The high-speed Internet service is cable powered. Both commercial and residential customers can enjoy a constant connection from one of the largest Internet providers in the country.

Committed to the continuous development of the communities they serve, Comcast plans in the near future to upgrade many systems in the tri-state area including Flushing, OH. A Comcast Service Center, located in Bridgeport, OH, employs many Belmont County residents allowing them to serve customers in the communities in which they live.

A 24/7 customer service line, 1-800-COMCAST, is available for all product and installation information.

Sixteen FM and four AM radio stations can be received or are located in Belmont County. NBC and CBS television networks each operate a local station. WTOV-TV (Channel 9 -

Steubenville - NBC) and WTRF-TV (Channel 7 - Wheeling - CBS) both provide local news and advertising opportunities. One weekly and three daily newspapers serve the region. The Times Leader in Belmont County circulates Monday through Friday evenings and on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The Wheeling News Register circulates Monday through Friday evenings and on Sunday. The Intelligencer, based in Wheeling, WV circulates Monday through Saturday morning. The Barnesville Enterprise circulates weekly.

ELECTRIC (AEP)

The American Electric Power Company (AEP), one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric utilities serves approximately 300 square miles of Belmont County. American Electric Power has one of the strongest transmission and distribution systems in the world, with almost 22,000 circuit miles of transmission lines and 102,000 miles of distribution lines connecting customers with 38 power plants. Adequate power is available for virtually any industrial requirement, with primary service delivered over 69,000-volt subtransmission lines directly connected to two 345,000-volt and three 138,000-volt transmission lines. This energy is reduced to 12,470 volts for distribution in the communities. Electric power may be purchased at subtransmission voltage for large industrial requirements at the point of use.

American Electric Power's competitive rates are well below the national average, with general service tariffs for large commercial and industrial customers who contract for a definite amount of electrical capacity. The amount of power must be sufficient to meet normal maximum requirements but cannot be less than 100KW. Rate schedules can be obtained by contacting any AEP office.

The rural areas of Belmont County are serviced by South Central Power Company, Ohio's largest rural electric cooperative. The company serves more than 4,000 homes and businesses in the county and more than 80,000 homes in the 24 county service territory. South Central Power employs staff dedicated to working with commercial and industrial customers.

As is the case with all cooperatives, Ohio South Central Power Company is organized as a non-profit business enterprise owned by its' members. The affairs of the organization are administered by individuals elected by the members and accountable to them.

In the early 1960's South Central Power and Ohio's other electric cooperatives formed Buckeye Power, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative which now operates two coal-fired generating plants near Brilliant, OH on the Ohio River. These plants assure South Central Power's consumers of a reliable supply of electricity.

