

Softrock Geological Services Case Study

Softrock Geological Services, a geophysical consulting firm in Durango, CO, was contracted as wellsite geologic consultants on a natural gas drilling project in the rugged San Juan Basin of the Four Corners area. They were tasked with doing a stratigraphy test of the sedimentary rock layers in a remote location. The test site was located well beyond the traditional range of cell coverage in canyon and mesa country, where they were surrounded by ridges in all directions.

THE CHALLENGE

The distance from the nearest cell tower and the obstacles presented by the natural terrain made communication with the outside world difficult for the test site crew. Cellular devices could on occasion detect a very weak signal near the test site but achieving and maintaining a reliable connection was all but impossible. The only alternatives were using a satellite phone, which frequently suffered annoying service delays, or spending the time to drive to a location where cell service was known to be reliable enough to allow a connection.

THE SOLUTION

Using a cellular signal booster made by Wilson Electronics, the Softrock crew was able to amplify the weak signal and provide cellular coverage at the test site. Softrock vice president Dan McGinn said the Wilson booster “ended up being the communication hub for the project.”

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THE RESULTS

The Wilson booster (1) saved time and money; (2) significantly contributed to the safety of the project; (3) provided a value-added service that now gives Softrock a competitive edge.



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“Our ability to have coverage for everyone’s cell phones saved us and our client a ton of money on drive time,” McGinn said. “We were commended after the fact on our contribution to the overall safety of the project. Without our Wilson booster, any injury would have been extra dangerous due to the added time that would have been required to call for an air rescue.”

Since the completion of the San Juan Basin project, Softrock has become the preferred vendor for communications for all the company’s clients. “This simple added service has won bids for us on new work, because we now have the ability to reduce communication costs and contribute to the safe completion of projects.

“Wilson boosters are now mounted in all of our mobile laboratories and have become a critical component of our success,” McGinn went on to say. “This scenario has become commonplace for us and we continue to provide an enhanced service due to the Wilson boosters. Thanks and we will be customers for life!”