



Newsline



Long a symbol for NERSC and MFENET, these two 10-meter satellite dishes were dismantled in February after ten years of dependable service. Despite the transmission delays inherent in routing information via the Westar satellites, this technology provided a huge improvement in data error rates over those associated with terrestrial links. Now, however, fiber optic cables provide much higher throughput (1.5 million bits/sec versus 56 thousand bits/sec) with even lower data error rates. This new technology was used to build ESNET, which replaced MFENET, and in December 1990, all satellite communication links were turned off.