

SCRPS Status Update

FCC Form 5640

OMB Control No. 3060-1270

File No. SC-SU0002505

Applicant Information

Applicant FRN 0005040092 Applicant Address PO BOX 848
Applicant Name Eastern Oregon Telecom, LLC Applicant City HERMISTON
Applicant Email michellee@bluemountainnet.com Applicant State OR
Applicant Phone 5412897000 Applicant ZIP Code 97838

Contact Information

Is the contact the same as the contact listed on the Application Request for Funding Allocation? If not, please list below.

Contact Name Sam Hariton Contact Address 4031 University Dr., 2nd Floor
Contact Email sc.external.rfi.bluemtn@wideli Contact City Fairfax
Contact Phone 5413703000 Contact State VA
Contact ZIP Code 22030

*Indicate which deadline you are meeting with this filing.

2024-04-08

Explanation of Effort and Availability of Commercial Equipment

*Provide an explanation of efforts undertaken, and challenges encountered, in permanently removing, replacing, and disposing of covered communications equipment or service.

Yes, my company has conducted work on the removal of covered equipment since the submission of the last form. In total, we have completed removal at 17 sites and started migration at 2 sites. No, my company has not conducted work on the disposal of covered equipment since the submittal of the last form.

We are focused on pulling equipment out of service at this stage of the project. Yes, my company has conducted work on the replacement of covered equipment and services since the submission of the last form. We have completed removal at 17 sites and started migration at 2 sites.

*Explain whether you are finding commercially available equipment in the marketplace. If not, then explain efforts taken to obtain replacement equipment.

A year or more ago vendors were quoting us 6 month lead times on equipment, which caused us to push our timeline out by at least 6 months. More recently, equipment is, for the most part, commercially available. However, negotiating with vendors as a small company where financial resources are constrained has proved challenging. Services remain very difficult for us to find. Due to the increased demand for Rip & Replace work, contractors have many opportunities offered to them. Since we are a very small company in a remote, rural area, it is hard for us to compete with, and attract with other companies that can offer work in a more densely populated area and closer to home. Quotes from contractors are therefore too expensive for us for the amount of funds we were allocated. We have only been able to hire one engineering contractor for 9 months of work, and a few accounting contractors. It has taken 5-7 months to fill open positions. To move the project forward in light of supply chain challenges, we have had to reallocate internal resources, both operational and financial, to largely focus on Rip and Replace. This reallocation has adversely impacted existing network operations and forced us to slow down the project. Complications with regards to auditing and integration when replacing equipment caused extended, unexpected outages that added unanticipated work and are contributing to further delays. We are a small company with less than 60 employees. The demands concerning the amount of paperwork and backup information for a company our size remain extremely challenging. Senior leadership driving this project and working with the team have had to spend significantly more time on the paperwork than we could have imagined, leading to further delays. We have reallocated as much of our internal workforce and resources as we can to drive this project forward and bring it to completion, at the expense of other strategic projects we had intended for this period of time.

* If there is additional information relevant to the preceding questions or that you believe the Commission should be aware of, please include the information below.

With a higher allocation, we would have been able to bring in additional resources to maintain project progress that was not feasible to budget for with the provided allocation. Our observation has been that the delays stem from an overall lack of funding as a result of the 39.5% allocation, and supply chain issues. We have had to slow down our timeline and reallocate financial resources to carry out the project while serving our customers as a small, rural company. With only 39.5% allocation we don't have the funds available to procure essential resources, and therefore cannot order the needed essential services and materials to complete our work. Integration and audit issues when replacing equipment have presented additional problems and staffing up to overcome this has been challenging.

Program Compliance

*Indicate whether recipient has fully complied with (or is in the process of complying with) all requirements of the Reimbursement Program.

Yes No

*Indicate whether recipient has permanently removed from its communications network all covered communications equipment or services that were in the recipient's network as of the date of the submission of the recipient's application request for funding.

Yes No

If recipient has not yet completed the removal process, what estimated percentage of the removal process have you completed?

56

*Indicate whether recipient has replaced all covered communications equipment or services that were in the recipient's network as of the date of the submission of the recipient's application request for funding.

Yes No

If recipient has not yet completed the replacement process, what estimated percentage of the replacement process have you completed?

63

*Indicate whether recipient has disposed of all covered communications equipment or services that were in the recipient's network as of the date of the submission of the recipient's application request for funding.

Yes No

If recipient has not yet completed the disposal process, what estimated percentage of the disposal process have you completed?

0

*Indicate whether recipient has fully complied with (or is in the process of complying with) the timeline submitted by the recipient. If not, provide explanation for deviation.

Yes No

*The filer has indicated no to a question in this section, please provide additional information.

Timeline Deviation: Our original timeline was delayed in getting started due to supply chain issues as discussed above. We have also experienced internal workforce shortages and difficulty in filling open positions as we are a small company in remote and rural Oregon. In addition, we have found that the original time estimates are low for the amount of work required with auditing and integration. We anticipate completing the project around two years later than originally projected.

Certifications

*By checking the box and providing the electronic signature where indicated below, the Certifying Official on behalf of the filer certifies under penalty of perjury that:

(1) The Certifying Official is authorized to submit this status report on behalf of the above-named filer and, based on information known to me or provided to me by employees responsible for the information being submitted, the information set forth in this status report has been examined and is true, accurate, and complete, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. The Certifying Official acknowledges that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information or statement, or the omission of any material fact on this status report or on any other document submitted by the filer may subject the filer and the undersigned to punishment by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), 1606), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 1001, §§ 286-287, and § 1343), or can lead to liability under the False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733, and §§ 3801-3812). (2) The filer is in compliance with the statute, rules, and orders governing the Reimbursement Program, including but not limited to allocations, draw downs, payments, obligations and expenditures of money, and the Certifying Official acknowledges that failure to be in compliance and remain in compliance with those statutes, rules, and orders may result in the denial of funding, cancellation of funding commitments, and/or recoupment of past disbursements. The Certifying Official acknowledges that the filer will maintain detailed records, including receipts, of all costs eligible for reimbursement actually incurred for a period of 10 years; and will file all required documentation for its expenses. The Certifying Official acknowledges that failure to comply with the statute, rules, and orders governing the Reimbursement Program could result in civil or criminal prosecution by law enforcement authorities.

Certifier Information

Certifier Signature	Giselle Hepker	Certifier Phone	541-370-3000
Certifier Name	Giselle Hepker	Certifier Email	ghepker@bluemountainnet.co
Certifier Title	VP of Finance		
Date Signed	2024-04-05		