

SCRPS Status Update

FCC Form 5640

OMB Control No. 3060-1270

File No. SC-SU0003239

Applicant Information

Applicant FRN	0015489636	Applicant Address	1224 W Platte Ave
Applicant Name	NE Colorado Cellular Inc	Applicant City	Fort Morgan
Applicant Email	mike.felicissimo@viaero.com	Applicant State	CO
Applicant Phone	9704673137	Applicant ZIP Code	80701

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	Summit Ridge Group, LLC	Contact Address	49 West 38th Street, 12th Floor
Contact Email	SRG-RnR@SummitRidgeGroup.com	Contact City	New York
Contact Phone	2124334800	Contact State	NY
		Contact ZIP Code	10018

*Indicate which deadline you are meeting with this filing.

2025-04-03

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.

Lack of full funding has continued to jeopardize NE Colorado Cellular, Inc's ("Viaero") entire SCRP efforts (the "Project"). Viaero is waiting for FCC's full funding following the passage of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2025, which the President signed on 12/24.

Viaero suspended deployment on new sites in Q2 2024 due to funding and has been unable to release additional work beyond the 189 sites. It is in the process of mobilization planning to restart full deployment promptly once the funding is allocated. Site Prep Status: Viaero began the site work required before Ericsson's installation activity. It also established internal procedures for executing the project plan (RAN&MW) including setting quality control standards for supervising vendors. As of 4/2/25, Viaero completed: Electrical 687/715, Shelter Upgrades 14/14, Concrete Pads 19/71, Access Road Prep 7/40, Generator Replacements 471/511, Permitting 662/885, Lease Negotiations 32/90, NEPA/NHPA 581/591.

Core Deployment: Core migrations and stabilization was completed in Fort Morgan and Grand Island switching centers. RAN/Transport Network integration has begun. Viaero and Ericsson recognized the need to start the Core Project before the application was approved and agreed to start in 8/2021 (ordering hardware & high-level design). All onsite hardware and software have been installed and commissioned. Integration and Acceptance Testing is 100% completed. The traffic on Huawei Core was migrated to the Ericsson Core in 3/2023. Monitoring and Stabilization are completed. Ericsson's LTE Sites have started to be turned up on the Ericsson Cores. All LTE RAN (Ericsson and Huawei) have been rehomed to the Ericsson Cores. The only remaining portion of the Huawei core is still connected to the CBRs spectrum and RAN. The Huawei core must remain on air until all Huawei CBRs RAN is replaced as it is connected to the Huawei Domain proxy, which is connected to the SAS server. Upon completion of the replacement of all Huawei CBRs RAN equipment, the Huawei Cores will be decommissioned & destroyed.

RAN Deployment: Viaero and Ericsson agreed to start the RAN Project in a limited scope in 10/2021. This scope included the individual RAN site surveys using drones where practical, RF (Radio Frequency) Design, limited hardware ordering, site hardware configurations, cutover planning, and limited Construction Drawings of the baseline cluster. The baseline cluster started the installation of RAN equipment in 7/2022. 183 sites have all prohibited RAN removed. Viaero is working to close out 179 Sites by the end of Q1 2025. There are 66 clusters in 22 FRNs, this should close out the first 4 clusters completely, with other network components being completed for the remaining clusters for 225 sites, either RAN or MW, which will include work in an additional 22 clusters. Lack of full SCRP funding and 3rd party funding sources preclude construction beyond the 225 sites. However, an additional 116 sites have full or partial RAN Equipment delivered which will assist in the re-mobilization planning.

RAN Deployment of the Ericsson LTE Network: Radio Frequency Design Sheets Completed: 878/887, CDs Approved: 596/887, CX (Construction) Start NTPs (Notice to Proceed) Received: 387/887, CX Start: 311/887, CX End: 239/887, Integration Completed: 183/887, Cutover Completed: 183/887, Prohibited Equipment Removed: 183/887.

Transport Deployment: Viaero and Ericsson agreed to start the Transport Project in 10/2021 with a limited scope: individual site surveys using drones where practical, link design, Prior Coordination Notice (PCN) with the FCC, limited Construction Drawings, IP design, link hardware configurations, and limited hardware orders.

Transport Deployment of the Ericsson Transport Network: NTP MW: 528/597, PCN process Complete: 557/597, NTP CX: 303/597, CX Start: 205/597, Build Complete: 192/597. 158 Paths Prohibited Equipment removed, 95 sites have had the prohibited transport equipment fully removed.

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

With the passing the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) including the additional \$3.08 billion for Rip and Replace, the applicant looks forward to FCC's announcements regarding funding allocations to participants. Viaero remains concerned about future equipment availability when order quantities increase, and the difficulties identifying and hiring qualified, experienced telecommunications engineers and project managers. Training inexperienced individuals will put pressure on Viaero's build deadlines, which may require a deadline extension.

* 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.

As Viaero/Ericsson began actual site scoping, new issues arose specific to the towers being scoped.

Direct Challenges to the Speed and Efficiencies of the SCRP Program:

a) Full Funding – Viaero suspended new site work in Q2 2024 and estimates current funding will require suspending existing deployment activities by the end of Q4 2024. Re-starting once full funding is provided will be time-consuming and will add additional costs to the SCRP. Viaero has committed nearly all of its 39.5% allocation. As of 3.31.25, approximately 74% of the available funding has been reimbursed, with an additional 6% is currently in process with the FCC. Viaero estimates an additional 16% of Viaero's completed work will result in invoicing. In total, Viaero has spent or committed in excess of 95% of the current available funding. The majority of contracted field construction crews have already been assigned to other (non Viaero) projects. Restarting deployment will add extra (unbudgeted) costs and additional time needed to remobilize and schedule crews, potentially renegotiate agreements with contractors, and due to inflationary cost increases since the time the SCRP application was submitted. According to Department of Labor data, the inflation rate since September 2021 is 16%. In addition, there is a low probability of re-starting the project with the same crews which have experience in the Viaero network.

Viaero's Covered Equipment is no longer vendor-supported. Partial or full network interruptions may occur if an issue arises that cannot be resolved, such as a site, card, or another network component going down. Network interruptions not only affect Viaero's rural customers' ability to continue to receive mobile and broadband services, but could also affect their ability to access critical functions such as dialing 911 or their ability to work, access their educational material online, participate in telehealth resources, etc. For many of its towers, Viaero continues to serve as the carrier of last resort. The Project has also impacted Viaero's ability to expand or grow its network because it has devoted significant resources and time to swapping out the equipment and managing the Project. The Project harms Viaero's customers' service quality because continuous network construction and partially complete construction negatively impact network performance. Any further delay in receiving full funding will also prolong this project with continued harm to Viaero's business.

b) Supply Chain Restart – Due to delay of funding, the vendors supply chain has had to adjust their inventory. Inventory re-building is underway, but it will take time to reach a steady flow of equipment availability needed to finish the project. Further, the current political conditions concerning tariffs must be monitored to determine if this also will impact the supply chain.

Labor Shortages—Vendors have reduced tower crews due to funding limits. Previously utilized Ericsson-contracted crews, for example, have mostly been removed from this Project and assigned to other (non-Viaero) ongoing deployments across the country. It may be challenging to find qualified replacement crews to complete this project. Delays in finding replacement crews and ramping them-up on Viaero's project could cause additional time delays after funding is allocated.

c) Reimbursement Processes - The challenges above have added burden, complexity, and additional cost to the reimbursement process.

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?

20

*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?

20

*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?

12

*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.

Please see text above.

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

Michael Felicissimo

Certifier Phone 9705423605

Certifier Name Michael Felicissimo

Certifier Email mike.felicissimo@viaero.com

Certifier Title President

Date Signed 2025-04-02