

SCRPS Status Update

FCC Form 5640

OMB Control No. 3060-1270

File No. SC-SU0001317

Applicant Information

Applicant FRN 0001754209

Applicant Address 3984 County Rd 32

Applicant Name Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.

Applicant City Arlington

Applicant Email cores@pinebelt.net

Applicant State AL

Applicant Phone 3343855000

Applicant ZIP Code 36722

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.pinebelt@widelii

Contact City Fairfax

Contact Phone 7035601750

Contact State VA

Contact ZIP Code 22030

*Indicate which deadline you are meeting with this filing.

2023-01-11

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.

No, my company has not conducted work on the removal of covered equipment since the submittal of the last form. Installation of the replacement equipment has not been completed. Removal will follow completion of installation of the replacement equipment. No, my company has not conducted work on the disposal of covered equipment since the submittal of the last form. We have not yet removed any covered equipment. Yes, my company has conducted work on the replacement of covered equipment and services since the submittal of the last form. We continue to work on turn-up of the new core. Ground prep work on 1 of 67 tower sites started in December 2022.

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

No, we are not finding that equipment and services are commercially available. The tower owners have presented unreasonably burdensome rent increase demands which, if accepted, would seriously impact our ability to remain operationally upright. We have attempted and continue to try to negotiate acceptable alternatives which is contributing to the delays we have experienced. For the core, we continue to await delivery of key server components. Availability of qualified vendor installation personnel has been an issue. Other than pressing each vendor for timely responses to the needs of our project, there is really little we can do. "You simply cannot get blood from a turnip".

* 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.

While the burdens of this program continue, so do the overall issues of trying to meet the consumer demands and expectations in an ever evolving, capital and technology intensive business sector. This replacement mandate is putting areas that are persistently behind in such regard further behind because of it. The issues raised in recent ex-parte filings regarding the nit-picking difficulties in processing reimbursement claims should be diligently reviewed and immediately addressed with a viewpoint of "what's reasonable in the best interest of all" versus a "strictest compliance" standard. Likewise, reasonable modifications to the program rules to allow participants to use available funds to make reasonable improvements in services offered (e.g. adoption of O-RAN and upgrades to 5G to address the wide-ranging policy objectives of "better, more secure broadband for everyone, everywhere") should be adopted. And finally, the matters of what will happen should congress fail to come through with appropriations to fund the shortfall need to be brought to the forefront of current discussions and debates.

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, replaced, and disposed of (or is in the process of permanently removing, replacing, and disposing of) all covered communications equipment or services that were in the recipient's network as of the date of submission of the recipient's application requesting funding.

Yes No

If you have not yet completed the removal, replacement, and/or disposal process, what estimated percentage of the removal, replacement, and/or disposal process have you completed?

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*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.

Pine Belt is approximately 15% finished with the removal, replacement, and disposal process, but has not yet completed it.

Timeline Deviation: The original timeline indicated the replacement EPC would be complete by 5/31/22. This milestone will not be reached any earlier than January 31, 2023. Practically every other milestone completion date should be shifted by a similar difference.

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	JOHN C NETTLES	Certifier Phone	334-385-5001
Certifier Name	JOHN C NETTLES	Certifier Email	john@pinebelt.net
Certifier Title	PRESIDENT		
Date Signed	2023-01-03		