

SCRPS Status Update

FCC Form 5640

OMB Control No. 3060-1270

File No. SC-SU0001255

Applicant Information

Applicant FRN 0014409924 Applicant Address 4001 Rodney Parham Road
Applicant Name Windstream Communications Applicant City Little Rock
Applicant Email tracey.l.giles@windstream.co Applicant State AR
Applicant Phone 5017485001 Applicant ZIP Code 72212

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 Paul St Clair Contact Address 1275 K Street NW
Contact Email paul.stclair@windstream.com Contact City Washington
Contact Phone 202-997-8746 Contact State DC
Contact ZIP Code 20005

*Indicate which deadline you are meeting with this filing.

2022-10-13

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.

Windstream's network included Huawei equipment acquired through its acquisition of Earthlink that represented a small fraction of the company's data transport capability. Windstream created and implemented an internal multi-year engineering plan to remove this equipment in January 2019. Following an Executive Order in May of 2019 that banned the use of certain Chinese equipment, Windstream accelerated the plan and hired contractors Ciena and Fujitsu to assist with the removal in January of 2020.

Windstream began removing Huawei equipment in January 2019. Windstream's network included four different areas of Huawei equipment in 2019: West (DWDM), East (DWDM), Boston (DWDM), and New Hampshire (SONET). By August 2021, Windstream had removed nearly half of all impacted equipment.

Because of Windstream's advanced state of removal and disposal, one challenge was implementing the updated disposal best practices. The FCC published disposal best practices on September 30, 2021. Windstream adjusted its disposal practices based on the FCC's Public Notice.

Windstream has now completed the removal and replacement of equipment. Windstream's disposal vendor is still working on compliant disposal for the East (DWDM), Boston (DWDM) and New Hampshire (SONET) portions of the network. Windstream is beginning to submit for reimbursement for locations that are fully complete.

The most noteworthy challenge currently is the significant time and resources that Windstream personnel must dedicate to the reimbursement application including uploading through the SCRP Portal. There are limited options to automate or do the uploads by batch. Additionally, the submission team has experienced technical difficulties with the portal and is working with the fund administrator to resolve these issues.

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

Because of Windstream's early adoption of a removal and replacement program, it experienced little difficulty in the availability of replacement equipment in the marketplace.

* 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.

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?

90

*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.

Windstream began removing Huawei equipment in January 2019. By August 2021, Windstream had removed nearly half of all impacted equipment. By the date of the submission of Windstream's application, Windstream had removed and replaced virtually all of the equipment and is substantially engaged in the compliant disposal of equipment.

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 Tim Loken

Certifier Phone 501-748-7442

Certifier Name Tim Loken

Certifier Email tim.p.loken@windstream.com

Certifier Title Director

Date Signed 2022-10-14