



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## STREAMLINED RESOLUTION OF REQUESTS UNDER THE SECURE AND TRUSTED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

### WC Docket No. 18-89

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants, pursuant to delegated authority, the following petitions requesting to extend certain deadlines under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program).

As directed by the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019, as amended (Secure Networks Act), the Commission established the Reimbursement Program to reimburse providers of advanced communications service with ten million or fewer customers for reasonable costs incurred in the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment or services from their networks that pose a national security risk, i.e., communications equipment or services produced or provided by Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) or ZTE Corporation (ZTE), that were obtained by providers on or before June 30, 2020.<sup>1</sup> The Reimbursement Program is funded by a \$1.9 billion congressional appropriation,<sup>2</sup> which is less than the \$5.6 billion in collective funds requested by applicants to the program.<sup>3</sup> Because demand exceeded available funding, the Secure Networks Act

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<sup>1</sup> Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-124, § 4(a)-(c), 134 Stat. 158 (2020) (codified as amended at 47 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1609). The Commission adopted rules implementing the Secure Networks Act on December 10, 2020. *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Second Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 14284 (2020) (*2020 Supply Chain Order*). On July 13, 2021, the Commission amended its rules, consistent with amendments to the Secure Networks Act included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Third Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 11958, 11959, para. 2 (2021) (*2021 Supply Chain Order*). The Commission later clarified that, for purposes of the Reimbursement Program, covered communications equipment or services are limited to the communications equipment or services produced or provided by Huawei or ZTE that were obtained by providers on or before June 30, 2020. See *2021 Supply Chain Order*, 36 FCC Rcd at 11959, 11965, paras. 2 and 18; see also generally *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs – Huawei Designation*, PS Docket No. 19-351, Order, 35 FCC Rcd 6604 (PSHSB 2020); *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs – ZTE Designation*, PS Docket No. 19-352, Order, 35 FCC Rcd 6633 (PSHSB 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, § 906, 134 Stat. 1182 (2020) (CAA). Section 906 provides that “[t]here is appropriated to the Federal Communications Commission, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended— . . . (2) \$1,900,000,000 to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), of which \$1,895,000,000 shall be used to carry out the program established under section 4 of that Act (47 U.S.C. 1603).”

<sup>3</sup> See *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces the Grant of Applications for the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, DA 22-774, at 1-2 (WCB July 18, 2022) (*SCRIP Granted Applications Public Notice*) (explaining that “[e]ach applicant was required to (continued....)

required the Bureau to implement a prioritization scheme where funding was allocated first to approved applicants with 2,000,000 or fewer customers (Priority 1 applicants).<sup>4</sup> Because demand from Priority 1 applicants alone exceeded the congressional appropriation, Commission rules required that allocations to Priority 1 applicants be pro-rated on an equal basis.<sup>5</sup> Consequently, recipients received funding allocations for approximately 39.5% of their reasonable and supported estimated costs for removing, replacing, and disposing of covered communications equipment and services.<sup>6</sup>

Reimbursement Program recipients must complete the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment and services within one year from the initial disbursement of funds to the recipient.<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to section 4(d)(6)(C) of the Secure Networks Act, the Commission may grant recipients extensions of this term on an individual basis.<sup>8</sup> The Commission delegated authority to the Bureau to grant or deny individual petitions for an extension of a recipient's term.<sup>9</sup> The Bureau "may grant an extension for up to six months after finding, that due to no fault of such recipient, such recipient is unable to complete the permanent removal, replacement, and disposal by the end of the term" and "may grant more than one extension request to a recipient if circumstances warrant."<sup>10</sup> This can occur, for example, due to the lack of funding to fully reimburse recipients, which can require recipients to revise their plans in ways that cause them to need more time to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment, in addition to delays in receiving the necessary equipment to replace their covered equipment, which likewise can require a recipient to need more time to meet its obligations under the Reimbursement Program.<sup>11</sup>

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include in its application estimates for the costs that it will reasonably incur for the permanent removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment and services" and identifying that, across all filed applications, applicants sought a total of "approximately \$5.6 billion in gross program support").

<sup>4</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(5)(C); 47 CFR § 1.50004(f)(1); *SCRIP Granted Applications Public Notice* at 2-3.

<sup>5</sup> The Commission's rules provide that "[i]f there is insufficient funding to fully fund all requests in a particular prioritization category, then the [Bureau] will pro-rate the available funding among all eligible providers in that prioritization category." 47 CFR § 1.50004(f)(1); see also 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(5)(A) ("[T]he Commission shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that reimbursement funds are distributed equitably among all applicants for reimbursements under the Program according to the needs of the applicants, as identified by the applications of the applicants.").

<sup>6</sup> See 47 CFR § 1.50004(f)(1); see also *SCRIP Granted Applications Public Notice* at 2-3.

<sup>7</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(6)(A); 47 CFR § 1.50004(h).

<sup>8</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(6)(C).

<sup>9</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(6)(C); 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) ("Individual extensions. Prior to the expiration of the removal, replacement and disposal term, a Reimbursement Program recipient may petition the Wireline Competition Bureau for an extension of the term. The Wireline Competition Bureau may grant an extension for up to six months after finding, that due to no fault of such recipient, such recipient is unable to complete the permanent removal, replacement, and disposal by the end of the term. The Wireline Competition Bureau may grant more than one extension request to a recipient if circumstances warrant.").

<sup>10</sup> 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2); see also *2020 Supply Chain Order*, 35 FCC Rcd at 14354-56, paras. 171, 173 and n.501.

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Order, DA 23-875, para. 7 (WCB Sept. 22, 2023) (*Stealth Extension Order*) (granting an extension based on supply chain issues); *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Order, DA 23-938, paras. 12-16 (WCB Oct. 10, 2023) (*WorldCell et al. Extension Order*) (granting extensions based on both funding issues and supply chain issues); *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Order, DA 23-1016, paras. 12-16 (WCB Oct. 27, 2023) (*Point/SI Wireless Extension Order*) (granting extensions based on both funding issues and supply chain issues); *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89,

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The Bureau strongly encourages recipients that intend to file a petition for an extension to do so as promptly as possible after determining that their circumstances meet the standard for an extension established in the statute and the Commission's implementing rules, and well in advance of the recipient's deadline, so the Bureau is able to fully consider and grant or deny the petition before the recipient's term expires. We remind recipients that requests for term extensions must specify both the specific grounds for the request and the underlying facts and circumstances on which the recipient relies in asserting those grounds. The Commission directed the Bureau to review individual extension requests on a case-by-case basis and to consider all factors when evaluating the request.<sup>12</sup> To this end, the facts and circumstances in an individual request should include the specific obstacles faced by the recipient, how they affected the recipient's ability to meet its term deadline, why the inability to meet the deadline exists through no fault of the recipient, and steps taken by the recipient to mitigate the impacts of the obstacles as it works towards meeting its removal, replacement, and disposal obligations. Recipients should also explain whether they expect to meet their new deadline if the Bureau grants their extension request. Consistent with rule 1.50004(h)(2), which permits the Bureau to grant more than one extension request "if circumstances warrant,"<sup>13</sup> recipients making a second or subsequent extension request should ensure that the facts and circumstances described cover the time period since their prior extension request was made and explain progress made since that request. Requests that lack adequate support may be denied or the recipient may be required to provide additional support, which could delay a decision on the request.

The lack of full funding will not necessarily be a sufficient showing for multiple extension requests, as recipients should continually make progress toward completing their projects by the end of their removal, replacement, and disposal term. The Bureau will evaluate the sufficiency of each individual extension request at the time it is filed in determining whether to grant or deny it. We emphasize that a recipient's statutory obligation to complete the permanent removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment or services exists regardless of the amount of funding it may receive through the Reimbursement Program pursuant to the Secure Networks Act. The Secure Networks Act and the Commission's rules require each Reimbursement Program recipient to remove, replace, and dispose of "all" its covered equipment and services.<sup>14</sup> Similarly, the Reimbursement Program FAQs (at 25) state that "[p]roviders are expected to remove, replace, and dispose of all Huawei and/or ZTE communications equipment and services in their networks as of the date of the submission of the application even if they receive a prorated allocation from the Reimbursement Program due to funding constraints."<sup>15</sup>

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Order, DA 23-1110, paras. 8-11 (WCB Nov. 28, 2023) (*Triangle Telephone/Triangle Communication Extension Order*) (granting extension of time requests by Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association Inc. and Triangle Communication System, Inc. based on supply chain issues); *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Order, DA 23-1196, para. 5 (WCB Dec. 21, 2023) (*GigSky, Inc. Extension Order*) (granting extension of time request by GigSky, Inc. based on funding issues).

<sup>12</sup> *2021 Supply Chain Order*, 36 FCC Rcd at 11998, para. 99.

<sup>13</sup> 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2).

<sup>14</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 1603(e)(4)(A)(ii) (recipient must file a final certification to show removal, replacement, and disposal of "all" covered equipment and services); 47 CFR 1.50004(m)(1) (same); *see also* 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(4)(A)(i)(I) (applicant must certify it has a plan to remove "any" covered equipment and services); 47 CFR § 1.50004(a)(3)(i)(A) (same).

<sup>15</sup> <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-234A2.pdf>. Within 10 days following the expiration of the removal, replacement, and disposal term, a recipient must file a final certification with the Commission indicating whether it has fully complied with all terms and conditions of the Reimbursement Program. 47 U.S.C. § 1603(e)(4)(A); 47 CFR § 1.50004(m)(1).

Consistent with the Commission’s goal of streamlining its internal review processes,<sup>16</sup> and further pursuant to our delegated authority,<sup>17</sup> we announced in our *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice* that we would, with that Public Notice, begin issuing a Public Notice, as necessary but not more frequently than monthly, disposing of pending petitions which seek an extension of an applicants’ removal, replacement, and disposal terms, do not involve complicated and/or controversial issues, and can be addressed in a manner consistent with Commission and/or Bureau precedent.<sup>18</sup> Accordingly, we hereby grant the pending petitions listed below for an extension of a recipient’s term to remove, replace, and dispose of its covered equipment.<sup>19</sup>

**Recipient** – Bristol Bay Cellular Partnership, SCRP0001182

**Grounds for individual term extension** – Bristol Bay Cellular Partnership (Bristol Bay) requests a second six-month extension of the deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment.<sup>20</sup> Bristol Bay asserts that its ability to complete the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered equipment and services by its October 25, 2024 deadline has, through no fault of its own, been materially affected by supply chain issues and the lack of full funding. Regarding the funding shortfall, Bristol Bay states that it is a small business operating 17 remote sites in Alaska, and that due to the nature of its service area and adverse weather conditions, some sites are accessible only a few months a year and only by plane and boat.<sup>21</sup> In addition, Bristol Bay states that the costs of logistics involved to serve these areas, such as air charters and fuel surcharges, have increased to the point that, when combined with the SCRP funding shortfall, SCRP costs have become unsustainable and, even though Bristol Bay has actively sought ways to self-fund the shortfall, it has been unable to do so.<sup>22</sup> Regarding supply chain issues, Bristol Bay asserts that it has “experienced significant issues in hiring employees and contractors with skills

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<sup>16</sup> See *Report on FCC Process Reform*, GN Docket No. 14-25 (Staff Working Group, Feb. 14, 2014) (*Process Reform Report*).

<sup>17</sup> See 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.50004(h)(2).

<sup>18</sup> *Streamlined Resolution of Requests Under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, DA 24-88, at 3 (WCB Jan. 31, 2024) (*January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice*). This approach further speeds the disposition of petitions seeking extension of the removal, replacement, and disposal term and to ensure the continued efficient administration of the Reimbursement Program, while at the same time fulfilling our obligation to thoroughly review the record before us. *Id.* Prior to issuance of the *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice*, we had resolved petitions for extensions of recipients’ removal, replacement, and disposal terms in stand-alone orders addressing each petition. The Bureau routinely resolves other matters in the manner of the *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice*, as appropriate. See, e.g., *Streamlined Process for Resolving Requests for Review of Decisions by the Universal Service Administrative Company*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 06-122, 08-71, 10-90, 11-42, and 14-58, Public Notice, 29 FCC Rcd 11094 (WCB 2014) (stating that the Bureau will resolve certain Universal Service Fund matters in a streamlined public notice).

<sup>19</sup> This Public Notice does not take positions on the merits of grounds raised by requestors other than those identified and discussed herein. In addition, we expressly reject any suggestion in the requests that a recipient is required to meet its statutorily mandated removal, replacement, and disposal obligations only if full funding is made available by Congress.

<sup>20</sup> Request of Bristol Bay Cellular Partnership for Extension of Time, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 21, 2024) (Bristol Bay Extension Request).

<sup>21</sup> *Id.* at 1.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 1-2.

necessary to perform the work necessary to complete our project.”<sup>23</sup> Despite these obstacles, however, Bristol Bay states that it has made significant progress and has successfully removed all covered equipment from its network and shipped that equipment for destruction.<sup>24</sup> The Bureau finds Bristol Bay’s showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with the situation of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds of the lack of full funding<sup>25</sup> and supply chain issues,<sup>26</sup> and accordingly grants the requested extension through April 8, 2025.

**New RRD term expiration date** – Bristol Bay’s deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) IS EXTENDED from October 25, 2024 to April 25, 2025.

**Recipient** – Mark Twain Communications Company, SCRP0001021

**Grounds for individual term extension** – Mark Twain Communications Company (Mark Twain) requests a second six-month extension of the deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment.<sup>27</sup> Mark Twain asserts that its ability to complete the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered equipment and services by its December 6, 2024 deadline has, through no fault of its own, been materially affected by supply chain issues and the lack of full funding. Regarding supply chain issues, Mark Twain identifies three events that prevent it from completing its work by the current deadline. First, although Mark Twain has completed removing all covered communications equipment from its network, the vendor it hired has yet to provide the necessary disposal documentation as outlined in DA 21-1234.<sup>28</sup> Mark Twain states that it continues to work with the vendor and a third-party recycler to complete the disposal process and obtain the necessary documentation, but the vendor has yet to provide a deliverable date.<sup>29</sup> Second, while Mark Twain purchased core equipment in 2021 to replace its Huawei core, the vendor told Mark Twain a few months later that the core would be “end-of-life,” meaning the vendor would not provide support or software updates.<sup>30</sup> Mark Twain then had to find a replacement core, but due to equipment shortages and the short timeframe of the program it did not receive the new core until August 2023.<sup>31</sup> While that core has now been installed, Mark Twain states that the optimization of the equipment is ongoing and will take more time. Third, Mark Twain states that it faced similar issues with microwave backhaul equipment, where it elected to order new equipment rather than a model reaching its end-of-life, but for which the vendor has given a lead time beyond the current December 6, 2024 deadline.<sup>32</sup> Despite these

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<sup>23</sup> *Id.* at 1.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>25</sup> See, e.g., *WorldCell et al. Extension Order* at 5-7, paras. 11-15; *Point/SI Wireless Extension Order* at 5-6, paras. 12-14; *GigSky Extension Order* at 2, paras. 4-5; *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice* at 5.

<sup>26</sup> See, e.g., *Stealth Extension Order* at 3-5, paras. 6-11; *WorldCell et al. Extension Order* at 7-8, paras. 16-19; *Point/SI Wireless Extension Order* at 6-7, paras. 15-18; *Triangle Extension Order* at 4-5, paras. 8-11; *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice* at 4-5.

<sup>27</sup> Request of Mark Twain Communications Company for Extension of Time, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 21, 2024) (Mark Twain Extension Request).

<sup>28</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

delays, Mark Twain has made continued progress, replacing 90 percent of its core equipment and completing 90 percent of the disposal work, such that it expects to be able to complete all of its obligations under the Reimbursement Program by an extended deadline of June 6, 2025.<sup>33</sup> The Bureau finds Mark Twain's showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with the situation of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds of supply chain issues,<sup>34</sup> and accordingly grants the requested extension.

**New RRD term expiration date** – Mark Twain's deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) IS EXTENDED from December 6, 2024 to June 6, 2025.

**Recipient** – NE Colorado Cellular, Inc d/b/a Viaero Wireless, SCRP0001110, SCRP0001113, SCRP0001114, SCRP0001115, SCRP0001118, SCRP0001119, SCRP0001120, SCRP0001122, SCRP0001123, SCRP0001124, SCRP0001125, SCRP0001126, SCRP0001135, SCRP0001141

**Grounds for individual term extension** – NE Colorado Cellular, Inc d/b/a Viaero Wireless (NE Colorado) requests a six-month extension of the deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) for the applications listed above.<sup>35</sup> NE Colorado asserts that its ability to complete the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered equipment and services by the deadlines for those applications, which range from November 2 to December 15, 2024, has, through no fault of its own, been materially affected by the lack of full funding. NE Colorado states that the limited funding has forced it to reprioritize where it sends work in order to focus on completing work at the sites already under construction, and that this focus on completing portions of the project in clusters has caused it to make limited progress at other sites, which will require more time to be completed.<sup>36</sup> NE Colorado also states that the lack of full funding has caused it to release some construction crews, leading to project delays, and also that its primary vendor has pulled its construction crews because NE Colorado has not received the funding needed to pay for scheduled work.<sup>37</sup> NE

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<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>34</sup> See, e.g., *Stealth Extension Order* at 3-5, paras. 6-11; *WorldCell et al. Extension Order* at 7-8, paras. 16-19; *Point/SI Wireless Extension Order* at 6-7, paras. 15-18; *Triangle Extension Order* at 4-5, paras. 8-11; *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice* at 4-5.

<sup>35</sup> See Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1110, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1113, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1114, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1118, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1119, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1120, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1122, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1123, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1124, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1125, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1126, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1135, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024); and Request of NE Colorado for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1141, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Sept. 26, 2024). This would be the third six-month extension for Applications SCRP0001110 and SCRP0001141 and the second six-month extension for all the other Application numbers listed for NE Colorado.

<sup>36</sup> See, e.g., NE Colorado Request for Extension for Application SCRP0001118 at 2.

Colorado adds that the lack of full funding has impaired its ability to order replacement equipment and that it has been forced to limit or postpone some equipment orders and cancel or postpone others due to the lack of full funding.<sup>38</sup> That being said, NE Colorado states that it has worked to mitigate the impact of the lack of full funding by continually reevaluating its project plan and timelines and that it has completed a substantial amount of work, such as completing the deployment of core equipment at its network operations centers, completing delivery of onsite hardware and software, migrating all of its voice and data traffic off of the Huawei cores, and completing a substantial amount of site preparation.<sup>39</sup> The Bureau finds NE Colorado's showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with the situation of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds of the lack of full funding,<sup>40</sup> and accordingly grants the requested extensions for the application numbers listed above.

**New RRD term expiration date** – NE Colorado's deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) IS EXTENDED as follows:

- For File No. SCRP0001110, from November 3, 2024 to May 3, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001113, from December 3, 2024 to June 3, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001114, from December 3, 2024 to June 3, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001115, from December 10, 2024 to June 10, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001118, from December 6, 2024 to June 6, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001119, from December 7, 2024 to June 7, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001120, from December 15, 2024 to June 15, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001122, from December 10, 2024 to June 10, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001123, from December 7, 2024 to June 7, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001124, from December 13, 2024 to June 13, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001125, from December 10, 2024 to June 10, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001126, from December 3, 2024 to June 3, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001135, from December 7, 2024 to June 7, 2025; and
- For File No. SCRP0001141, from November 18, 2024 to May 18, 2025.

**Recipient** – Point Broadband Fiber Holding, LLC, SCRP0001128, SCRP0001129, SCRP0001130, SCRP0001131, SCRP0001132

**Grounds for individual term extension** – Point Broadband Fiber Holding, LLC (Point Broadband) requests a second six-month extension of the deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) for the applications listed above.<sup>41</sup> Point Broadband asserts that its ability to complete the removal,

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<sup>37</sup> *Id.*

<sup>38</sup> *Id.* at 2-3.

<sup>39</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>40</sup> See, e.g., *WorldCell et al. Extension Order* at 5-7, paras. 11-15; *Point/SI Wireless Extension Order* at 5-6, paras. 12-14; *GigSky Extension Order* at 2, paras. 4-5; *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice* at 5.

<sup>41</sup> See Request of Point Broadband Fiber Holding LLC for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1128, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 8, 2024); Request of Point Broadband Fiber Holding LLC for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1128, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 8, 2024); Request of Point Broadband Fiber Holding LLC for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1129, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 8, 2024); Request of Point Broadband Fiber Holding LLC for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1130, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 8, 2024); and Request of Point Broadband Fiber Holding LLC for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1131,

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replacement, and disposal of covered equipment and services by the deadlines for those applications, which range from October 29 to November 13, 2024, has, through no fault of its own, been materially affected by the lack of full funding. Specifically, Point Broadband states that as a small, rural provider it lacks the resources to complete its project with internal funds, and only has enough resources to focus on one part of the project at a time.<sup>42</sup> This, in turn, prevents it from completing its work by the current deadline, as the first step is to complete the 2.5 GHz wireless tower equipment changeouts, which have been delayed by nesting birds on the towers that hinder Point Broadband's tower crews when trying to complete the changeouts.<sup>43</sup> And while Point Broadband believes it can complete those changeouts within the time allowed by a six-month extension, it still only has resources to focus on one project at a time, so its next step would be to complete the changeout of almost 200 routers, which cannot begin until Point Broadband first migrates 4,000 customers off the Fiber to the Home (FTTH) systems that are still connected to Huawei routers.<sup>44</sup> That, however, requires a Point Broadband technician to have an on-site visit at the customer's location to facilitate the changeouts, and despite Point Broadband's scheduling efforts, completing these visits will depend on customer availability and cooperation, meaning the visits will take some time to complete.<sup>45</sup> In this regard, we note that the delays are like those that warranted an extension for Puerto Rico Telephone Co., where its ability to complete its SCRP project depended on the cooperation of individual customers in returning equipment and scheduling on-site visits.<sup>46</sup> The Bureau finds Point Broadband's showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with the situation of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds of the lack of full funding,<sup>47</sup> and the need to coordinate on-site visits that depend on the cooperation of customers,<sup>48</sup> and accordingly grants the requested extensions for the application numbers listed above.

**New RRD term expiration date** – Point Broadband's deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) IS EXTENDED for the applications listed above as follows:

- For File No. SCRP0001128, from November 10, 2024 to May 10, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001129, from November 11, 2024 to May 11, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001130, from November 13, 2024 to May 13, 2025;
- For File No. SCRP0001131, from October 29, 2024 to April 29, 2025; and
- For File No. SCRP0001132, from November 13, 2024 to May 13, 2025.

**Recipient** – United Wireless Communications, Inc. SCRP0001104

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WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 4, 2024); Request of Point Broadband Fiber Holding LLC for Extension of Time for Application SCRP1132, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 8, 2024).

<sup>42</sup> See, e.g., Point Broadband Extension Request for SCRP0001128 at 1.

<sup>43</sup> *Id.*

<sup>44</sup> *Id.*

<sup>45</sup> *Id.*

<sup>46</sup> *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, DA 24-709, WC Docket No. 18-89, Order, para. 5 (WCB July 22, 2024) (*Puerto Rico Extension Order*).

<sup>47</sup> See, e.g., *WorldCell et al. Extension Order* at 5-7, paras. 11-15; *Point/SI Wireless Extension Order* at 5-6, paras. 12-14; *GigSky Extension Order* at 2, paras. 4-5; *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice* at 5.

<sup>48</sup> *Puerto Rico Extension Order* at 3, para. 5.



**Grounds for individual term extension** – United Wireless Communications, Inc. (United Wireless) requests a second six-month extension of the deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) for the applications listed above.<sup>49</sup> United Wireless asserts that its ability to complete the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered equipment and services by its October 21, 2024 deadline has, through no fault of its own, been materially affected by supply chain issues. Specifically, United Wireless states that it has made significant progress since receiving its first term extension, removing the final 10 percent of its covered equipment and disposing of the remaining 50 percent of its covered equipment, so that now it has completed the removal and disposal process, along with 99 percent of its replacement process.<sup>50</sup> Nevertheless, United Wireless states that it needs additional time to complete the last part of its replacement process, namely the installation of 13 generators and network testing, which has been repeatedly delayed due to supply chain delays.<sup>51</sup> United Wireless ordered and installed its generators in three phases, but delivery for the first phase was more than 200 days late, and the generators delivered for the second phase were missing transfer switches that required several months to be replaced.<sup>52</sup> It states that these delays, in turn, mean that installation of the third batch of generators has not yet begun. United Wireless also needs additional time to complete network testing, which has been delayed because some testing could not begin until primary network components were finished being replaced, which did not happen until September 2024.<sup>53</sup> Finally, United Wireless states it has been delayed in replacement of its IMS core due to the vendor unexpectedly sunseting the type of core United Wireless intended to use.<sup>54</sup> United Wireless has been able to select a new vendor for the replacement core, but an exact timeline for installation has not been set.<sup>55</sup> The Bureau finds United Wireless’s showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with the situation of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds of supply chain issues,<sup>56</sup> and accordingly grants the requested extension.

**New RRD term expiration date** – United Wireless’s deadline to remove, replace, and dispose of covered equipment and services in its network under 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2) IS EXTENDED from October 21, 2024 to April 21, 2025.

For additional information concerning this Public Notice, please contact Ty Covey in the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at [ty.covey@fcc.gov](mailto:ty.covey@fcc.gov) or (202) 418-1372.

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<sup>49</sup> See Request of United Wireless Communications, Inc. for Extension of Time, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed Oct. 10, 2024) (United Wireless Extension Request).

<sup>50</sup> *Id.* at 1.

<sup>51</sup> *Id.*

<sup>52</sup> *Id.*

<sup>53</sup> *Id.* at 1-2.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>55</sup> *Id.*

<sup>56</sup> See, e.g., *Stealth Extension Order* at 3-5, paras. 6-11; *WorldCell et al. Extension Order* at 7-8, paras. 16-19; *Point/SI Wireless Extension Order* at 6-7, paras. 15-18; *Triangle Extension Order* at 4-5, paras. 8-11; *January 2024 Streamlined Resolution Public Notice* at 4-5.