

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.

As Point Broadband Fiber Holding, LLC (“Point” or “We”) approaches exhausting its funding, the biggest concern is deciding where to stop work until additional funds become available.

In the past quarter, Point’s primary SCRP (“Rip & Replace”) focus is on the 2.5 wireless tower swaps. Point successfully completed swaps at fifty tower sites, which accounts for 80% of the total wireless changeouts. As the new equipment is installed, Point removes the Huawei equipment and takes it to the Rip & Replace warehouse for approved disposal. Point completed the fifty 2.5 wireless tower swaps with one Core operational. The second Core is not yet installed due to its complexity, costs, and the time it takes to get the backup site prepared. As a result, Point’s priority has shifted to migrating all 2.5 wireless systems and converting customers, with a target completion date at the end of 2024. However, the project has encountered delays, mainly regarding scheduling and planning challenges imposed by tower owners and specific program requirements. Additionally, the tower crews have encountered legally protected nesting birds on the towers, which has further delayed the necessary changeouts.

Point’s next major hurdle is Fiber to the Home (“FTTH”) customer base changeouts. The changeouts will require thousands of truck rolls and We currently do not have the necessary funds to change out the customer premise equipment. Point formulated a plan to change out the customers on one hub site at a time, but it’s currently paused until additional funding is available. The pause also affects the ability to take FTTH Huawei chassis and Huawei routers out of the network, which are co-installed with the new Ciena equipment. Point attempted to use internal resources to change out some of the FTTH customer-premise equipment, but We could not do the conversions and keep up with the other ongoing customer base needs with the limited resources available.

Point’s DC Plant changeouts were not completed as expected. We ran into difficulties with facility owners and, in some cases, with AC power requirements that did not allow the installation of the new DC plant. Additionally, Point needs to move non-Huawei equipment attached to the old Huawei DC plant in each hub over to the new DC plant.

Point is a small operator committed to serving rural areas. However, without additional funding from Congress, both Point’s viability and its customers’ access to broadband services are at risk.

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

Point received the majority of the needed equipment at this time, but the biggest issue is finding labor to complete the Rip & Replace project and funds to install it.

* 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.

Point continues to remove Huawei equipment from the network. Point is then storing and cataloging the equipment in the Rip & Replace warehouse.

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?

30

*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?

50

*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.

Point completed all the Ciena FTTH Hub equipment installs, but the Huawei FTTH Hub equipment and routers cannot be removed until truck rolls are performed to remove and replace the Huawei FTTH customer-premise equipment. The process of installing the 2.5 wireless tower equipment is 80% complete, with a target completion date of the end of 2024.

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

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Date Signed 2024-10-07