

## SCRPS Status Update

FCC Form 5640

OMB Control No. 3060-1270

File No. SC-SU0002927

### Applicant Information

Applicant FRN	0019623834	Applicant Address	PO Box 8826
Applicant Name	SI Wireless, LLC	Applicant City	Columbia
Applicant Email	leslie.williams@siwirelessllc.c	Applicant State	SC
Applicant Phone	8064441375	Applicant ZIP Code	29202

### 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	Leslie Williams	Contact Address	PO Box 8826
Contact Email	leslie.williams@siwirelessllc.c	Contact City	Columbia
Contact Phone	8064441375	Contact State	SC
		Contact ZIP Code	29202

\*Indicate which deadline you are meeting with this filing.

2024-10-07

## 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.

SI Wireless has been working to rip and then replace our network across rural Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois since about August of 2021, navigating the challenges of fulfilling the program's goals amidst significant delays in invoice processing. SI Wireless, which had no history of heavy debt before this program, is now struggling under a substantial financial burden due to the lack of timely reimbursements on invoices submitted and inability to invoice for completed work as a result of program directed restrictions. We've successfully removed most of the covered equipment on all 204 sites previously in SI Wireless' network and installed new gear on about 80 sites in our replacement program. This deployment represents about 20% of the coverage that SI Wireless had before this program. However, getting these sites up and running to serve our rural communities has been far slower than anticipated because we simply don't have the funds to pay our contractors due to the fact that after SI's initial payments to contractors, prior invoices have not been reimbursed. These reimbursements are essential and indispensable funding streams for expenses incurred solely to accomplish the goal of the SCRP. The oldest unreimbursed invoice is over 715 days old. Keep in mind that the program from start to finish was initially supposed to take 365 days.

Currently, SI Wireless is awaiting reimbursements on 270 invoices, totaling over \$14.6 million. On top of that, we are unable to submit invoices for over \$30 million worth of work because we are still waiting for modification approvals as modifications can only be processed one at a time. We have actually been asked to further break down single modifications into parts A, B and C, further delaying progress. Without these approvals, we can't submit invoices for completed work. In total, we have been waiting for modification approvals over 440 days. The current modification was submitted and has been waiting for approval since 04/25/24.

On 07/11/24, SI Wireless received a Notice of Funding Hold from the FCC, as well as a Request for Information from the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, nearly two years after we were initially approved as eligible for the program on 07/15/22. Our eligibility is now being questioned due to a statement in the Washington Post, where Leslie Williams noted, "Currently customers are without service," referencing dead zones in our coverage areas caused by funding shortfalls. It seems that the FCC may think that in the middle of ripping out and replacing our network, in a program aptly dubbed 'Rip and Replace,' we should be servicing customers on the very same network we are dismantling. We are seeking to persuade the FCC that such an assumption is mistaken. As a result, our focus on building out the network diminished significantly as we were forced to redirect our energy and expend resources to answer 52 questions from the FCC that in total had over 2,000 subparts to the questions being asked.

This program was designed to strengthen and secure our nation's communication networks by asking providers to rip out and replace Huawei and ZTE equipment, which posed a national security risk to the United States. SI Wireless has remained fully committed to this critical mission from the moment we were asked by our government to take part in ensuring a more secure and reliable national network infrastructure. That commitment has never wavered. We've always been open and transparent about the program because we believed in doing the right thing. We have over the intervening years spoke out truthfully from time to time in hopes of improving the program's efficiency. What we've pointed out about the program's challenges was later echoed in the FCC's 2023 and 2024 Reports to Congress, the latter being submitted in July 2024.

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

We are finding it is difficult to get the 4G equipment we need for this program because we are experiencing reimbursement issues. All manufacturers are on 5G equipment and moving to 6G. 4G equipment is legacy

\* 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.

Congress was clear with its intention exacting the Secure Communications Act of 2019. Now is the time to ask is Congressional Intent being followed.

## 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?

95

\*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?

95

\*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?

95

\*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.

We are not certifying 100% removal until we are completed with this program.

## 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      Leslie Williams

Certifier Phone      8064441375

Certifier Name      Leslie Williams

Certifier Email      leslie.williams@siwirelessllc.cc

Certifier Title      President

Date Signed      2024-10-07