



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
Internet: www.fcc.gov

DA 26-547

Released: June 3, 2026

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION IN THE RIP-AND-REPLACE PROGRAM

WC Docket No. 18-89

Comments Due: June 17, 2026

Reply Comments Due: June 24, 2026

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment on Requests for Clarification recently filed by Summit Ridge Group, Inc. and Widelity, Inc. regarding certain reimbursement issues in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Rip-and-Replace Program or Program), as well as letters filed by Pine Belt Cellular Inc. and NE Colorado Cellular, Inc. d/b/a Viaero Wireless regarding the same issues. These documents are publicly available in the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) for WC Docket No. 18-89.¹ The Bureau seeks comment on the issues identified in these documents.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules,² interested parties may file comments on or before the dates indicated at the beginning of this document. All comments must reference **WC Docket No. 18-89** and should be filed only in that docket. Comments may be filed in ECFS.³

¹ Comments and Request for Clarification of Summit Ridge Group, WC Docket No. 18-89, at 1 (filed Apr. 23, 2026) (requesting clarification that “the reasonable, documented costs incurred by recipients to prepare and submit Final Certification(s), final Reimbursement Claim Requests, and Final Spending Reports . . . are reimbursable”); Comments of Widelity, Inc., WC Docket No. 18-89, at 1 (filed Apr. 29, 2026) (requesting clarification that “reasonable, documented costs incurred by participants to prepare and submit final certification(s), final reimbursement claim requests, and final spending reports should be considered reimbursable”); Letter from Donald L. Herman, Jr., Herman & Whiteaker, LLC, Counsel for Pine Belt Tel. Co., to Marlene Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 18-89, at 2 (filed May 14, 2026); Letter from Michael Felicissimo, President, NE Colorado Cellular, Inc., to Joseph Calascione, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 18-89 (filed May 20, 2026). See *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, 11999, para. 101 (2021) (clarifying that only reasonable expenses incurred before the expiration of the removal, replacement, and disposal term are eligible for reimbursement); *Wireline Competition Bureau Finalizes Application Filings, Procedures, Cost Catalog and Replacement List for the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, 36 FCC Rcd 12190, 12206, para. 47 (WCB 2021) (same).

² 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419.

³ See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, GC Docket No. 97-113, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
 - Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by U.S. Postal Service. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.
 - Hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary are accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by the FCC's mailing contractor at 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.
 - Commercial courier deliveries (any deliveries not by the U.S. Postal Service) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.
 - Filings sent by U.S. Postal Service First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, and Priority Mail Express may be addressed to 45 L Street, NE, Washington, DC 20554.

Ex Parte Rules. The proceeding this Public Notice initiates shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁴ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with section 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by section 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (e.g., .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

People with Disabilities. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530.

Additional Information. For additional information on this proceeding, please email supplychain@fcc.gov.

-FCC-

⁴ 47 CFR § 1.1200 *et seq.*