



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) conditionally grants, pursuant to delegated authority, petitions filed by four recipients in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Rip-and-Replace Program or Program) requesting extensions of their removal, replacement, and disposal (RRD) terms. Specifically, for the reasons explained below, the Bureau grants these requests conditioned on enhanced reporting by the recipients to ensure they continue to make progress and will complete their RRD work within the extended term.

When providers applied to participate in the Program and when applications to the Program were approved in July 2022, recipients were on notice that they had one year from that approval to obtain their first reimbursement and one year from the first reimbursement to finish their RRD work, subject to any extensions.¹ Nearly four years have passed since the applications were approved.² While recipients faced difficulties due to the initial funding shortfall that resulted in a pro-rata allocation of 39.5% of each recipient's approved cost estimates,³ that issue has been resolved for over a year.⁴ Recipients have similarly now had significant time to overcome delays associated with other previous justifications for additional time. Accordingly, in light of the time that has passed since the allocation of full funding for all Priority 1 recipients in April 2025, in addition to the time that recipients have had to complete their RRD work since their initial approvals in 2022, we expect that these recipients will be able to complete their RRD work within their terms, as extended by this Public Notice, with no further extensions.⁵

Additionally, to ensure recipients are making all possible progress, we require that recipients to

¹ See 47 CFR § 1.50004(g)(1) and (h).

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces the Grant of Applications for the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, 37 FCC Rcd 8590 (WCB 2022).

³ See *id.* at 8591.

⁴ *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Availability of Additional Funding for the Rip-and-Replace Program*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, 40 FCC Rcd 2520 (WCB 2025).

⁵ See *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Order, DA 26-435, at 11, para. 2 (WCB May 1, 2026) (*May 1, 2026 Extension Order*); *Streamlined Resolution of Requests Under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, 40 FCC Rcd 1323, 1324 (WCB 2025) (*February 2025 Extension Public Notice*).

which we grant an extension in this Public Notice include in all future status updates⁶ a timeline and detailed description of actions they have undertaken to resolve the problems identified in their granted extension requests. Recipients receiving an extension in this Public Notice must confirm the date by which they plan to complete their RRD work and, if that expected date extends past the recipient's extended RRD term, the recipient must explain what additional steps it plans to take to further prioritize and expedite its progress. This added level of detail will enable the Bureau to closely track whether each recipient receiving an extension is making satisfactory progress.

The Secure Networks Act authorizes the Commission to grant Program recipients individual six-month RRD term extension requests on a case-by-case basis.⁷ To grant an individual extension, the Commission must find 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."⁸ In order to ensure prompt removal, replacement, and disposal in accordance with the goals of the Secure Networks Act and the Commission's rules, the Bureau will only grant requests for an extension where the Program recipient demonstrates the delay is due to factors beyond its control.⁹

Term extension requests must demonstrate the specific obstacles faced by the recipient; how those obstacles, through no fault of the recipient, affected the recipient's ability to meet its term deadline; steps taken by the recipient to mitigate the impacts of the obstacles; and how the recipient expects to meet a future deadline if an extension is granted.¹⁰ Requests must include thorough explanations and documentary support where appropriate (e.g., documentation from a vendor as evidence of supply chain delays, details on the specific impact of adverse weather conditions, documentation of permitting delays).¹¹ Providing adequate explanation and support is imperative given that recipients were granted full funding over a year ago. The Bureau will deny requests that lack adequate support.

We hereby grant the petitions listed below for an extension of a recipient's RRD term.¹²

Recipient – Bristol Bay Limited Partnership, SCRP0001182

Grounds for individual term extension – Bristol Bay Limited Partnership (Bristol Bay) seeks a three-month extension based on supply chain delays associated with severe weather. Bristol Bay is a "small provider operating across rural Alaska."¹³ As such, it must perform RRD work at "17 widely dispersed sites, separated by thousands of miles and located within some of the most

⁶ See 47 CFR § 1.50004(k) (requiring recipients to file quarterly status updates with the Bureau until the recipient has filed a final certification).

⁷ 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(6)(C).

⁸ 47 CFR § 1.50004(h)(2).

⁹ *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, 14355-56, para. 173 (2020).

¹⁰ See, e.g., *February 2025 Extension Public Notice*, 40 FCC Rcd at 1324.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² See *Streamlined Resolution of Requests Under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Public Notice, 39 FCC Rcd 460, 462 (WCB 2024) (announcing that the Bureau may, via a Public Notice, periodically dispose of petitions that seek an extension of an recipient's RRD term, do not involve complicated and/or controversial issues, and can be addressed in a manner consistent with Commission and/or Bureau precedent). This Public Notice does not take positions on the merits of grounds raised by requestors other than those identified and discussed herein.

¹³ Bristol Bay Cellular Partnership Petition for Extension, WC Docket No. 18-89, at 2 (filed May 7, 2026) (Bristol Bay Petition for Extension).

remote and logistically difficult terrain in the United States.”¹⁴ According to Bristol Bay, “[m]any of the locations are seasonably accessible and present considerable challenges due to extreme weather conditions, limited transportation infrastructure, and substantial construction constraints, particularly during Alaska’s prolonged winter months.”¹⁵ More specifically, Bristol Bay states that it could not meet its RRD deadline because “[s]evere weather caused repeated travel disruptions and cancellations, delaying site acquisition and facility evaluation activities necessary to locate suitable facilities” for replacement equipment,¹⁶ affecting “on-site inspections, meetings with facility providers and vendors, assessment of power, environmental, and transport suitability, and final site selection.”¹⁷ In addition, Bristol Bay states that “[r]emote Alaska deployment logistics further complicated the project,” impacting “the delivery of [replacement] equipment, power and shelter components, construction materials, installation tools, and technical personnel required for deployment and commissioning.”¹⁸ Bristol Bay explains that it “mitigated these impacts by pre-staging equipment where possible, coordinating with freight carriers and local logistics providers, using alternative transportation methods when available, re-sequencing deployment activities, and maintaining close coordination with vendors and contractors.”¹⁹

The Bureau finds Bristol Bay’s showing of weather-driven delays and resulting supply chain issues in rural Alaska persuasive and that its situation is consistent with that of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds, and grants Bristol Bay a three-month deadline extension.

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 May 8, 2026 to August 8, 2026, conditioned upon Bristol Bay providing the necessary additional detail in its future status updates, as described above.

Recipient – Eltopia Communications, LLC, SCRP0001167

Grounds for individual term extension – Eltopia Communications, LLC (Eltopia) seeks a six-month extension based on an “absence of disbursement” and issues with its equipment vendor.²⁰ Specifically, Eltopia states that its vendor for essential replacement equipment told Eltopia on January 20, 2026 that all shipments would be on hold until Eltopia could meet its deposit requirements, but that Eltopia has not been able to provide a deposit due to factors outside its control, including delayed reimbursements as a result of circumstances that it states are similar to those of a recipient subject to a Commission hold on its Program disbursements.²¹ Eltopia adds that “without delivery of [this equipment], Eltopia cannot complete the integration, commissioning, and acceptance work” necessary to meet its RRD obligations, though it has attempted to mitigate delays by maintaining communication with its equipment vendor and

¹⁴ *Id.* at 1.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 1-2.

¹⁶ Bristol Bay Response to Request for Information (RFI) on Petition for Extension, at 2 (filed June 1, 2026).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Eltopia Communications, LLC Petition for Extension, WC Docket No. 18-89, at 1 (filed May 6, 2026) (Eltopia Petition for Extension).

²¹ *Id.* at 2 (citing *May 1, 2026 Extension Order* at 17, para. 56).

ensuring the vendor remains ready to ship within 30 days upon receipt of a deposit.²² Eltopia states that if the issues it cites are promptly resolved it will be able to finish all its RRD work by the extended deadline.²³ For these reasons, the Bureau finds Eltopia's showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with that of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds, and grants Eltopia's requested deadline extension.

New RRD term expiration date – Eltopia'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 May 8, 2026 to November 8, 2026, conditioned upon Eltopia providing the necessary additional detail in its future status updates, as described above.

Recipient – Mark Twain Communications Co., SCRP0001021

Grounds for individual term extension – Mark Twain Communications Co. (Mark Twain) seeks a six-month extension based on supply chain-related obstacles to obtaining necessary replacement equipment. Specifically, Mark Twain states that it previously purchased and installed equipment to replace its Huawei platform but has recently been informed of unexpected changes, arising from causes outside its control, that require it to migrate to a successor platform, which creates material delays.²⁴ Although Mark Twain sought to address the problem in other ways, it has been unable to switch to another vendor at this stage of its network migration.²⁵ Mark Twain further asserts that until it obtains a successor platform it cannot complete its RRD work.²⁶ Nevertheless, Mark Twain states that if an extension is granted it will be able to complete its RRD work within six months, as it has already completed its removal and disposal work (thus serving the core Program goal of eliminating covered equipment).²⁷ For these reasons, the Bureau finds Mark Twain's showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with that of other recipients that have been granted extensions based on supply chain-related difficulties, and grants Mark Twain its requested deadline 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 May 8, 2026 to November 8, 2026, conditioned upon Mark Twain providing the necessary additional detail in its future status updates, as described above.

Recipient – Skybeam, LLC, SCRP0001158 and SCRP0001159

Grounds for individual term extension – Skybeam, LLC d/b/a Rise Internet (Rise) seeks an extension for two applications based on supply chain and environmental issues. Rise states that in the first several months of 2026 it submitted final orders for the remaining replacement equipment it needs, and did so “as promptly as practicable once site counts were finalized,” but then had to find an alternative manufacturer when the original provider could not deliver the equipment consistent with Rise's required schedule.²⁸ Rise also states it has experienced supply chain delays on customer premises equipment (CPE) due to its supplier lacking sufficient

²² *Id.*.

²³ *Id.* at 3.

²⁴ Mark Twain Communications Co. Petition for Extension, WC Docket No. 18-89, at 2 (filed May 1, 2026).

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.* at 1; Mark Twain Response to RFI on Petition for Extension (filed May 7, 2026).

²⁸ Skybeam, LLC d/b/a Rise Internet (Rise) Petition for Extension, WC Docket No. 18-89, at 2 (filed May 5, 2026).

inventory to meet Rise's requirements.²⁹ As a result, Rise says it needed to find an alternative vendor, which it has now done, from which it can order the necessary CPE if its Program modification is approved.³⁰

As a separate basis for an extension, Rise states that at one tower site a migratory bird nest was identified on April 28, 2026, and that federal environmental regulations prohibit any tower construction activity on that site until nesting season has concluded.³¹ Rise further states that the owner of the site will not allow tower climbing until the birds leave the site. Rise asserts that it will not be able to complete the new tower installation by its current RRD deadline because doing so is "physically and legally impossible before an environmental assessment and estimate."³² Rise commits that, with an extension it will "complet[e] all remaining work by November 8, 2026."³³

For these reasons, the Bureau finds Rise's showing persuasive and that its situation is consistent with the situation of other recipients that have been granted extensions on similar grounds, and grants Rise's requested deadline extension for the specified applications.

New RRD term expiration date – Rise'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 May 8, 2026 to November 8, 2026, conditioned upon Rise providing the necessary additional detail in its future status updates, as described above.

The deadline for filing petitions for reconsideration or applications for review concerning the disposition of any of these extension requests is 30 days from the release date of this Public Notice.³⁴

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

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²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.* at 3.

³² *Id.* at 4.

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ See 47 CFR §§ 1.106(f), 1.115(d); see also 47 CFR § 1.4(b)(2) (setting forth the method for computing the amount of time within which persons or entities must act in response to deadlines established by the Commission).