

SCRPS Status Update

FCC Form 5640

OMB Control No. 3060-1270

File No. SC-SU0003096

Applicant Information

Applicant FRN 0031577018

Applicant Address 1224 W Platte Ave

Applicant Name NE Colorado Cellular Inc

Applicant City Fort Morgan

Applicant Email mike.felicissimo@viaero.com

Applicant State CO

Applicant Phone 9705423605

Applicant ZIP Code 80701

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 Summit Ridge Group, LLC

Contact Address 49 West 38th Street, 12th Floor

Contact Email SRG-RnR@SummitRidgeGro

Contact City New York

Contact Phone 2124334800

Contact State NY

Contact ZIP Code 10018

*Indicate which deadline you are meeting with this filing.

2025-01-03

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.

Overview: Lack of funding jeopardizes NE Colorado Cellular, Inc's ("Viaero") entire SCRP efforts (the "Project"). In Q2 2024, Viaero suspended deployment on new sites due to lack of funding. Viaero cannot commit to working beyond the 189 currently constructed and the remaining 44 sites currently in progress (out of 887 total). Nonetheless, as described below, Viaero has progressed methodically within the constraints of current financial realities. Viaero looks forward to the FCC's allocation of the additional funding recently passed by Congress.

Site Prep Status: Viaero began the site work required before Ericsson's installation activity and established internal procedures for executing the project plan (RAN and MW), including setting quality control standards for supervising vendors. As of 1/3/25, Viaero has completed: Electrical:686/715, Shelter Upgrades:14/14, Concrete Pads:19/71, Access Road Prep:7/40, Generator Replacements:449/511, Permitting:662/885, Lease Negotiations:32/90, NEPA/NHPA:581/591.

Core Deployment Status: Major Milestone Achieved: Core deployment was completed in Fort Morgan and Grand Island switching centers, all migrations were completed, stabilization was completed, and integration of RAN/Transport Network has begun. Viaero and Ericsson agreed to start the full Core Project in 08/2021, ordering hardware and starting the high-level design. As of 1/3/25, the Core project is 100% completed. All onsite hardware and software have been delivered, installed, and commissioned. Integration and Acceptance Testing is 100% completed. Traffic on Huawei Core has been migrated to Ericsson Core, completed in 03/2023. Ericsson's LTE Sites have started to be turned up on the Ericsson Cores. All LTE RAN (Ericsson and Huawei) have been rehomed to the Ericsson Cores. The only remaining portion of the Huawei core still connected or operational is related to the CBRS spectrum and RAN equipment. The Huawei core must remain on air until all Huawei CBRS RAN is replaced.

RAN Deployment Status: Viaero and Ericsson started the RAN Project in a limited scope in 10/2021. This scope included individual RAN site surveys using drones, Radio Frequency Design, limited hardware ordering, site hardware configurations, cutover planning, and limited Construction Drawings of the baseline cluster. The baseline cluster started the RAN equipment installation in 07/2022. 181 Sites were cut over as of 1/3/25, with 180 sites having all RAN prohibited equipment removed. Viaero is working to close out 179 Sites by the end of Q1 2025. Of the total application, consisting of 66 clusters in 22 FRNs, this should close out the first 4 clusters completely, with other components of the network being completed for the remaining clusters underway for a total of 225 sites, either with RAN or MW, which will include work in an additional 22 clusters. Lack of full SCRP funding and 3rd party funding sources currently preclude construction beyond the 225 sites planned as of 1/3/25. Mobilization planning is underway to ensure a quick re-start once the funding is secured.

RAN Deployment of the Ericsson LTE network Status:

Radio Frequency Design Sheets Completed: 878/887, CX Drawings Approved:596/887, CX Start NTPs Received:387/887, CX Start:311/887, CX End:239/887, Integration Completed:177/887, Cutover Completed: 181/887, Prohibited Equipment Removed: 180/887.

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

With the passing the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) including the additional \$3.08 billion for Rip and Replace, the applicant looks forward to FCC's announcements regarding funding allocations to participants. Viaero remains concerned about future equipment availability when order quantities increase, and the difficulties to identify and hire qualified, experienced telecommunications engineers and project managers. Training inexperienced individuals will put pressure on Viaero's build deadlines, which may require a deadline extension.

* 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.

a) As Viaero/Ericsson began actual site scoping, new issues arose specific to the towers being scoped.

Direct Challenges to the Speed and Efficiencies of the SCRP Program:

a) Full Funding – Viaero suspended new site work in Q2 2024 and estimates current funding will require suspending existing deployment activities by the end of Q4 2024. Re-starting once full funding is provided will be time-consuming and will add additional costs to the SCRP. Viaero has committed nearly all of its 39.5% allocation. Approximately 70% of the available funding has been reimbursed, with an additional 12% is currently in process with the FCC. Viaero estimates an additional 16% of Viaero's completed work will result in invoicing. In total, Viaero has spent or committed in excess of 95% of the current available funding. The majority of contracted field construction crews have already been assigned to other (non Viaero) projects. Restarting deployment will add extra (unbudgeted) costs and additional time to remobilize and schedule crews, potential contract re-negotiations with contractors, and increased costs due to inflation since the time the SCRP application was submitted. In addition, there is a low probability of re-starting the project with the same crews which have experience in the Viaero network.

Viaero's Covered Equipment is no longer vendor supported. Partial or full network interruptions may occur if an issue arises that cannot be resolved, such as a site, card, or another network component going down. Network interruptions not only affect Viaero's rural customers' ability to continue to receive mobile and broadband services, but could also affect their ability to access critical functions such as dialing 911 or their ability to work, access their educational material online, participate in telehealth resources, etc. For many of its towers, Viaero continues to serve as the carrier of last resort. The Project has also impacted Viaero's ability to expand or grow its network because it has devoted significant resources and time to swapping out the equipment and managing the Project. The Project harms Viaero's customers' service quality because continuous network construction and partially complete construction negatively impact network performance. Any further delay in receiving full funding will also prolong this project with continued harm to Viaero's business.

b) Labor Shortages—Funding limits had reduced tower crews. Previously utilized Ericsson-contracted crews have mostly been removed from this Project and assigned to other (non-Viaero) ongoing deployments across the country. Finding qualified replacement crews to complete this project may become challenging and could cause additional time delays when funding resumes in order to ramp this Project back up to full speed.

c) Reimbursement Processes - The challenges above have added burden, complexity, and additional cost to the reimbursement process.

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 recipients 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?

20

*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?

20

*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?

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*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.

Please see the text above.

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	Michael Felicissimo	Certifier Phone	9705423605
Certifier Name	Michael Felicissimo	Certifier Email	mike.felicissimo@viaero.com
Certifier Title	President		
Date Signed	2025-01-03		