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MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Internet Service Providers

FROM: Jim Stritzinger
Director, SC Office of Broadband Coordinator (“SC Broadband Office”)

DATE: September 13, 2021 (rev. 9/27/21)

RE: Fall 2021 Data Request

In preparation for the efficient deployment of federal funding that may become available, we are requesting that all Internet Service Providers (ISP) and middle-mile infrastructure owners promptly submit their most recent information so that we can quickly develop the next set of eligibility maps.

Section 10 of Act 142 provides as follows:

The SC Office of Broadband Coordinator (a.k.a. SC Broadband Office) is required to contact the appropriate entities to provide information necessary to compile the statewide county-by-county mapping plan that shows the location and broadband facility capabilities. Proviso 73.7 of 2021 further clarifies that to facilitate the provision of information necessary to this task, all information provided by a broadband service provider or other entity providing information for the purpose of creating a South Carolina broadband map shall be maintained by the Office of Broadband Coordinator and any other agency as confidential, proprietary, and a trade secret as defined in Section 30-4-40 of the 1976 Code, and subject to exemption from disclosure under state and federal law. The information shall not be subject to disclosure under Chapter 4, Title 30 of the 1976 Code, except in the form of a map where information that could be used to determine provider-specific information about the network of the broadband service provider or other providing entity is not disclosed. Except as otherwise provided in this provision, such broadband provider-specific information shall not be released to any person other than to the broadband service provider or other entity providing information, employees of the Office of Broadband Coordinator, agents designated to assist in developing the South Carolina broadband map, entities contracting with the Office of Broadband Coordinator, and other state agencies administering funds for broadband deployment without express permission of the submitting broadband service provider or other entity providing information. Such information shall be used solely for the purposes stated under this provision. The Office of Broadband Coordinator shall ensure that any such agents, entities, or agencies with whom the information is shared are aware of the confidential nature and restricted purposes for which the information may be used and that any such agents or entities that are not state agencies execute an appropriate nondisclosure agreement protecting the information from public disclosure before receiving the information. Entities providing broadband service or middle-mile infrastructure in South Carolina shall, on an annual basis, provide to the Office of Broadband Coordinator deployment data in a format specified by the office to provide the most accurate and granular representation of currently available broadband infrastructure. These same entities, when they serve residential or business customers, shall also provide the type of technology deployed together with the sustainable download and upload speeds available at each serviceable location. Entities failing to provide such data on an annual basis may be disqualified from state funding opportunities for the current fiscal year. Annually, the office shall compile this information, analyze, and update statewide broadband deployment information.

As such we are requesting five different data elements:

- 1) Updated Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Form 477 information; and,
- 2) Current Residential Service Area; and,
- 3) Recent Federal awards; and,
- 4) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) County/Municipal Project awards; and,
- 5) Served Residential Address List.

FCC Form 477 (June 30, 2021) – Please submit your most recent Form 477 information, in the exact same format as you submit to the FCC. We are expecting to see Excel (CSV or XLSX) for both your broadband deployment and subscription information for all entities that you own and operate (both ILEC and CLEC if appropriate). In addition, we would also like a copy of your submission confirmations (PDF) from the FCC.

Since June 30, 2021 Form 477 information data is due to the FCC on September 15, 2021, we ask that you submit this same information to broadband@ors.sc.gov as soon as it is complete but no later than **September 30, 2021**. Early submissions are greatly appreciated.

Residential Service Area – please provide a detailed shapefile of your current residential delivery area. When complete, this should be a collection of polygons, with donut holes removed, that will clearly show the extent of your service area.

Please submit this information to broadband@ors.sc.gov by **October 15, 2021**.

Federal Grant Awards – If appropriate, please provide a detailed shapefile (full 2010 census block resolution) of any USDA ReConnect or FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund areas that are designated and fully authorized/approved for future construction. Do not include any census blocks where construction was completed by June 30, 2021 and are currently being reported to the FCC.

Please submit this information to broadband@ors.sc.gov by **October 15, 2021**.

ARPA County/Municipal Project Awards - If appropriate, please provide a detailed shapefile (full 2010 census block resolution) of any county or municipal ARPA projects that are designated and fully authorized/approved for future construction.

Please submit this information to broadband@ors.sc.gov by **October 15, 2021**.

Served Residential Addresses - Please provide a detailed address list (Excel) of all serviceable locations that will be deployed as of September 30, 2021. With each detail row, please provide a unique identifier, the street address (USPS approved), the type of technology that is deployed (FCC technology codes), and the max upload and download speeds that are available (Mbps) at the location. If possible, please include a flag on each record indicating if the address is a new record from the previous data submission (ORS Cares 2020). If a unique identifier was previously utilized for an address, please use the same one in this submission. Do not include commercial deployments.

Please submit this information to broadband@ors.sc.gov by **November 30, 2021**.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Pursuant to Section 10 of Act 142 of 2020, timely data submission is required to participate in fiscal year funding opportunities and/or challenge processes.

Please email broadband@ors.sc.gov if you have any questions or need further clarification. Once again, we appreciate early submissions and individual data components as they become available. There is no need to wait for a complete set. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation!