

Overview of Zipl Fiber RDOF Consortium Applicants

Applicant

This addendum supports the short form application (the “application”) filed by the consortium applicants known as Zipl Fiber RDOF Consortium.

As explained in the Application, the Consortium members consist of the following entities: Frontier Communications Northwest, LLC (“FCN”); Citizens Telecommunications Company of Idaho, LLC (“CTCI”); Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana, LLC (“CTCM”) and Citizens Telecommunications of Oregon, LLC (“CTCO”).

The Consortium members are all wholly-owned operating subsidiaries of Northwest Fiber, LLC (“Northwest Fiber”) d/b/a Zipl Fiber. The Consortium members are all incumbent local exchange carriers (“ILECs”) that hold designations as eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETCs”).

Consortium Members and Relation to Northwest Fiber d/b/a Zipl

As explained in greater detail in Appendix A to the Application, Northwest Fiber acquired the four ILEC operating companies in a change of control transaction that closed on May 1, 2020. Close of the transaction was preceded by consent from the FCC, Team Telecom agencies, CFIUS agencies and state PUCs, all of whom found that Northwest Fiber’s acquisition of the four ILEC operating companies to be in the public interest.

In acquiring control of the four ILEC operating companies Northwest Fiber assumed all of the current and ongoing operations and service, over the exiting network assets. In addition, Northwest Fiber took a transfer of nearly 1000 employees in the region to Northwest Fiber to help construct, manage and operate the networks and to provide sales and customer services. In addition, Northwest Fiber also acquired robust customer-focused operational support systems.

Current Operational Posture

Since close of the transaction Northwest Fiber is continuing to serve, through the four ILEC operating companies, all of the customers that previously received service from Frontier. These customers continue to receive the same broadband Internet, voice and video service that they received prior to closing. At the same time, Northwest Fiber is making a concrete and substantial investments in upgrading portions of the network to deliver high-capacity broadband to its customers.