Project Changes

USDA RUS ReConnect Program

Agenda

- <u>Project Changes</u>

  - ➢ <u>Network Design</u>

  - ➢ <u>Construction</u>

  - ➢ <u>Buildout Timeline</u>

  - ➢ <u>Delivery of Services</u>

  - ➢ <u>Objectives (Scope) Changes</u>

- <u>Budget Changes</u>
- <u>Tips for Success</u>

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Network Design Changes

Network Design Changes

A detailed request letter should be submitted with supporting documents.

Design changes may require additional environmental review and may require a revised budget depending on the change.

RUS may require additional information based on the nature of the change request.

Examples

- Change from an active (ethernet) to a passive (PON) network or vice versa.
- Change from a wireless to a fiber network or vice versa.

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Construction Changes

Construction Changes

Construction changes primarily consist of the following topics:

- Route Changes

- Site Changes

- Construction Method

Construction Changes

Construction Changes require a detailed request letter along with maps.

Construction Changes may require additional environmental review and a revised budget depending on the change.

Examples

- Rerouting of previously approved routes that were included in the application.
- Construction of new routes.
- Changes in location of approved sites (towers, buildings, cabinets, etc.)
- Construction of new towers, building, cabinets, etc.
- Changes in construction methods such as switching from buried to aerial or vice versa.

Buildout Timeline

Timeline Changes

- Commencement and Completion of the Project
  - ➢ Awardees are required to commence the Project within 180 days from the date that RUS notifies in writing that the environmental review process has been concluded.
  - ➢ Project Completion shall occur within five years from the Release of Funds Date.
- Changes to either the commencement or completion timeline must be requested with a detailed letter explaining the circumstances.
- Extension of buildout period will require an amendment to the award agreement.

Service Delivery Changes

Service Delivery Changes

- Requires the submittal of a letter to RUS. An amendment of award agreement will be required.

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Scope Changes

Scope Changes

- Scope changes are primarily for a reduction in the "Approved Project Service Area".

- If there is a need to reduce the scope of the project, a request needs to be submitted to RUS. Requests must be supported by a revised budget and maps.

  - Maps should be submitted in both KMZ and PDF versions. The PDF copy should show the amended service area. The KMZ should show the approved project service area with the amended service area overlayed.

  - Requires a revised budget

- Scope changes, if approved, will necessitate the execution of an amendment to the award agreement to relieve the awardee of buildout and service obligations in the descoped area.

Budget Changes

Budget Changes

- Requires the submission of a letter providing the reason for the budget change and a revised budget.

- Budget changes generally do not require an environmental review, unless it is associated with another project change that requires an environmental review.

- The revised budget should be in the same format as the one submitted in the original application. This will enable RUS to expedite processing.

Tips for Timely Servicing Requests

- Requests are addressed on a first-come, first-serve basis

- Submit all documentation requiring RUS approval via email to the RUS General Field Representatives (GFR) until directed otherwise

- If you are unsure of how to proceed with a project change request, please reach out to your GFR!

Resources

- **Additional Information**
  - ReConnect website: https://reconnect.usda.gov

- **General Field Representative (GFR)**
  - https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr/all

- **RUS Portfolio Management & Risk Assessment Division**
  - (202) 720-1025