

RECIPIENT NAME:First Step Internet, L.L.C.

AWARD NUMBER: NT10BIX5570051

DATE: 02/02/2015

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0660-0037

EXPIRATION DATE: 6/30/2015

### QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

#### General Information

<b>1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted</b>  Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration	<b>2. Award Identification Number</b>  NT10BIX5570051	<b>3. DUNS Number</b>  787589290
<b>4. Recipient Organization</b>  First Step Internet, L.L.C. 1420 S. Blaine St #10, Moscow, ID 83843-3973		
<b>5. Current Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</b>  12-31-2014	<b>6. Is this the last Report of the Award Period?</b>  <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
<b>7. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.</b>		
<b>7a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official</b>  Kevin Owen  President	<b>7c. Telephone (area code, number and extension)</b>  2088828869	
	<b>7d. Email Address</b>  kowen@fsr.com	
<b>7b. Signature of Certifying Official</b>  Submitted Electronically	<b>7e. Date Report Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY):</b>  02-02-2015	

**Project Indicators (This Quarter)**

**1. Please describe significant project accomplishments completed during this quarter (600 words or less).**  
 Q4 2014 was spent working with BTOP and the EHP team to address the Sec. 106 Compliance issues. All outstanding issues were resolved and on 12/10/2014 an AAR was opened to finalize the documentation of First Step's response to the suspension, AAR# 2514374. Additionally, much work was done to open a final AAR for project improvements and additions, AAR# 2516131. Both AAR's are still pending. A final no cost project extension AAR was opened and approved on 10/16/2014, AAR#2500464. The project end date has been approved and extended to 9/30/2015.

**2. Please provide the percent complete for the following key milestones in your project. Write "0" in the Percent Complete column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not include this activity. If you provided additional milestones in your baseline plan, please insert them at the bottom of the table. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the percent complete is different from the target provided in your baseline plan (300 words or less).**

	Milestone	Percent Complete	Narrative (describe reasons for any variance from baseline plan or subsequent written updates provided to your program officer)
2a.	Overall Project	86	Winter weather and the Environmental requirements put the project behind schedule from the very beginning. First Step has completed its project improvement plan and it has been accepted. First Step has completed 96% of the network. First Step is working with the EHP Team for approval of final paths. AAR# 2516131 is pending. A no cost project extension was approved with a new project end date of 9/30/2015.
2b.	Environmental Assessment	100	completed
2c.	Network Design	100	completed
2d.	Rights of Way	0	n/a
2e.	Construction Permits and Other Approvals	95	First Step has a pending SHPO consultation concerning an additional CAI path build for the Gritman Medical Clinic.
2f.	Site Preparation	98	40' of tower section to add to existing tower site and one shipping container to place on remote power site.
2g.	Equipment Procurement	96	First Step awaits final approval for the remaining equipment purchases.
2h.	Network Build (all components - owned, leased, IRU, etc)	96	As the final equipment is purchased it will be installed as it arrives. Currently the network is 96% built.
2i.	Equipment Deployment	96	As the final equipment arrives it will be installed.
2j.	Network Testing	96	96% of the network is built and tested. As the remaining equipment arrives, it will be installed, configured and tested as part of the deployment process.
2k.	Other (please specify): n/a	0	n/a

**3. To the extent not covered above, please describe any challenges or issues faced during this past quarter in achieving planned progress against the project milestones listed above. In particular, please identify any areas or issues where technical assistance from the BTOP program may be useful (600 words or less).**

Despite the winter delays and the delays in the final approval for tower construction, First Step was able to complete all of the initially planned paths and towers as of 6/30/2013.

First Step continues to work with the FPO team and was granted a no cost project extension on 10/16/2014 which will allow us to add an additional CAI and complete other network improvements.

First Step submitted AAR# 2516131 that would add 6 project modifications. The modifications to the originally approved project would result in providing broadband services to ~2,484 currently unserved locations, improve service to multiple CAI's currently serviced under the project, add 25 new path miles and add 1 new medical clinic CAI. All are locations within the previously approved area of the 5 county project. This work will be begin, weather permitting, when EHP and the FPO have completed their reviews and approvals of the projects.

**4. Please report the following information regarding network build progress. Write "0" in the Total column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not include this activity. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the total is different from the**

**target provided in your baseline plan (600 words or less).**

Indicator	Total	Narrative (describe your reasons for any variance from the baseline plan or any other relevant information)
New network miles deployed	551	First Step had a baseline of 550 network miles to deploy. At 551 deployed we are in line with our original projections.
New network miles leased	0	n/a
Existing network miles upgraded	0	n/a
Existing network miles leased	0	n/a
Number of miles of new fiber (aerial or underground)	0	n/a
Number of new wireless links	72	First Step originally planned 69 microwave paths. As of the end of the year 72 paths were completed, 3 ahead of our projections.
Number of new towers	12	First Step has added 12 new towers as part of its project. The original project had 10 and there were 2 additional towers approved through the process.
Number of new and/or upgraded interconnection points	13	All anticipated interconnection points were installed.

For questions 5 and 6 please include information relating to agreements that you are negotiating or have entered into, or that your sub recipient, contractor or subcontractor is negotiating or entered into.

5a. If applicable, please provide the following information with regard to agreements with broadband wholesalers and/or last mile providers as a result of your project.

Indicators	
Number of signed agreements with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers	0
Number of agreements currently being negotiated with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers	3
Average term of signed agreements (in quarters)	0

5b. Please list the names of the wholesale and last mile providers with whom you have signed agreements (100 words or less). Providers:  
No agreements yet signed.

5c. What wholesale services are being provided by this project? Please describe below. As an attachment to this report, please provide pricing plans (in \$ per month) associated with each wholesale service provided by your product (100 words or less). Wholesale services description:

Pricing is flexible and dependent upon each requested path, as such, we don't have fixed pricing plans or tiers.

CAI and Wholesale list pricing starts at \$100/meg. Final pricing is dependent upon many factors. Factors such as expected usage, competitive pricing, other services customer may be purchasing as part of package, numbers of sites customer is servicing through First Step, collocation agreements at site or other sites, current pricing, etc all are factored into the final negotiated price with customer.

5d. If you have designated a third party to operate all or a portion of your network, please provide the name and contact information for this third party, indicate if this entity is a sub recipient, contractor, and/or subcontractor, and describe with specificity the portion of your network this this third party operates (600 words or less).

First Step will operate the network.

6. Please provide the data according to the type of subscriber. Write "0" in the Total column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not pass or serve a particular subscriber type. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the total is different from the target provided in your baseline plan (300 words or less).

Subscriber Type	Access Type	Total	Narrative (describe your reasons for any variance from the baseline plan or any other relevant information)

Subscriber Type	Access Type	Total	Narrative (describe your reasons for any variance from the baseline plan or any other relevant information)
Broadband Wholesalers or Last Mile Providers	Providers with signed agreements receiving new access	0	No providers yet signed due to the early weather and environmental construction delays.
	Providers with signed agreements receiving improved access	0	No providers yet signed due to the early weather and environmental construction delays.
	Providers with signed agreements receiving access to dark fiber	0	n/a
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number of subscribers for each	0	\$100/meg/month
Community Anchor Institutions (including Government institutions)	Total subscribers served	43	First Step completed all builds to the projected CAI's. First Step plans to install one new additional CAI in the coming quarter.
	Subscribers receiving new access	17	First Step met the expected project indicators for installations to new subscribers.
	Subscribers receiving improved access	26	First Step met the expected project indicators for installations to improved access subscribers.
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number or subscribers for each	14	First Step does not offer pre-defined "speed tiers". CAI's are able to order the exact bandwidth they believe they need for their individual usage and project. Speed packages currently provisioned are as follows:Current Speed Tier Matrix Speed Provisioned # of CAI's  800k/128k: 1 1.5/256: 1 2.0/500: 6 2/2: 1 3/3: 5 4/2: 1 5/5: 4 6/6: 7 7/7: 1 9/3: 1 10/10: 6 12/12: 2 20/20: 1 30/30: 6 Total 43
Residential / Households	Entities passed	0	0
	Total subscribers served	0	0
	Subscribers receiving new access	0	0
	Subscribers receiving improved access	0	0
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number of subscribers for each	0	0
Businesses	Entities passed	0	0
	Total subscribers served	0	0
	Subscribers receiving new access	0	0
	Subscribers receiving improved access	0	0

Subscriber Type	Access Type	Total	Narrative (describe your reasons for any variance from the baseline plan or any other relevant information)
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number of subscribers for each	0	n/a

7. Please describe any special offerings you may provide (600 words or less).  
No special offerings.

8a. Have your network management practices changed over the last quarter?  Yes  No

8b. If so, please describe the changes (300 words or less).  
No change.

9. Community Anchor Institutions:  
Using the table below, please provide a list by service area of the community anchor institutions (including Government institutions) connected to your network as a result of BTOP funds. Figures should be reported for the most recent reporting quarter only (NOT cumulatively). Also indicate whether your organization is currently providing broadband service to the anchor institution. Finally, provide a short narrative description with examples of how institutions are using BTOP-funded infrastructure (300 words or less).

Institution Name	Service Area (town or county)	Type of Anchor Institution (as defined in your baseline)	Are you also the broadband service provider for this institution? (Yes / No)	Narrative description of how anchor institutions are using BTOP-funded infrastructure
No new connections this quarter.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

**Project Indicators (Next Quarter)**

1. Please describe significant project accomplishments planned for completion during the next quarter (600 words or less).  
First Step plans to continue working with NTIA and the FPO team to gain approval for AAR# 2516131.

First Step submitted AAR# 2516131 that would add 6 project modifications. The modifications to the originally approved project would result in providing broadband services to ~2,484 currently unserved locations, improve service to multiple CAI's currently serviced under the project, add 25 new path miles and add 1 new medical clinic CAI. All are locations within the previously approved area of the 5 county project. This work will be begin, weather permitting, when EHP and the FPO have completed their reviews and approvals of the projects.

Once approved First Step will begin work immediately on the approved projects.

2. Please provide the percent complete for the following key milestones in your project. Write "0" in the Planned Percent Complete column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not include this activity. If you provided additional milestones in your baseline plan, please insert them at the bottom of the table. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the next reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the percent complete is different from the target provided in your baseline plan (300 words or less).

	Milestone	Planned Percent Complete	Narrative (describe reasons for any variance from baseline plan or any other relevant information)
2a.	Overall Project	89	First Step anticipates approvals to move forward with the pending AAR for route modifications / additions. This will allow for us to begin work on the requests as winter weather allows. We anticipate being able to make progress through the Quarter with final project completion by 9/30/2015.
2b.	Environmental Assessment	100	Completed
2c.	Network Design	100	Completed
2d.	Rights of Way	100	Completed
2e.	Construction Permits and Other Approvals	100	Completed
2f.	Site Preparation	100	Completed
2g.	Equipment Procurement	100	Completed

	Milestone	Planned Percent Complete	Narrative (describe reasons for any variance from baseline plan or any other relevant information)
2h.	<b>Network Build (all components - owned, leased, IRU, etc.)</b>	99	All network builds will be completed with the exception of the Hemlock Butte and Iron Mountain projects. These projects can not be started until the Spring weather arrives due to the mountain locations.
2i.	<b>Equipment Deployment</b>	99	All equipment will be deployed with the exception of the Hemlock Butte and Iron Mountain projects. These projects can not be started until the Spring weather arrives due to the mountain locations.
2j.	<b>Network Testing</b>	99	All network and infrastructure testing will be completed with the exception of the Hemlock Butte and Iron Mountain projects. These projects can not be started until the Spring weather arrives due to the mountain locations.
2k.	<b>Other (please specify): n/a</b>	0	n/a

**3. Please describe any challenges or issues anticipated during the next quarter that may impact planned progress against the project milestones listed above. In particular, please identify any areas or issues where technical assistance from the BTOP program may be useful (600 words or less).**

First Step submitted AAR# 2516131 that would add 6 project modifications. The modifications to the originally approved project would result in providing broadband services to ~2,484 currently unserved locations, improve service to multiple CAI's currently serviced under the project, add 25 new path miles and add 1 new medical clinic CAI. All are locations within the previously approved area of the 5 county project. This work will be begin, weather permitting, when EHP and the FPO have completed their reviews and approvals of the projects.

Winter weather will potentially slow some of the project plans, however the majority of the projects can move forward through the winter once approved. Specifically the project involving Hemlock Butte and Iron Mountain won't move forward until the winter weather begins to recede, all other projects can move forward once approved.

**Infrastructure Budget Execution Details**

**Activity Based Expenditures (Infrastructure)**

1. Please provide details below on your total budget, cumulative actual expenditures (for the period ending the current quarter), and cumulative anticipated expenditures (for the period ending next quarter) for each line item, including detailed disbursements of both matching funds and federal funds from project inception through end of this quarter (actual) or next quarter (anticipated). Actual and anticipated figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the applicable reporting quarter.

Budget for Entire Project				Actuals from Project Inception through End of Current Reporting Period			Anticipated Actuals from Project Inception through End of Next Reporting Period		
Cost Classification	Total Cost (plan)	Matching Funds (plan)	Federal Funds (plan)	Total Cost	Matching Funds	Federal Funds	Total Costs	Matching Funds	Federal Funds
a. Administrative and legal expenses	\$149,950	\$149,950	\$0	\$122,460	\$75,922	\$46,538	\$122,460	\$75,922	\$46,538
b. Land, structures, right-of-ways, appraisals, etc.	\$520,000	\$22,000	\$498,000	\$520,000	\$20,294	\$499,706	\$520,000	\$20,294	\$499,706
c. Relocation expenses and payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
d. Architectural and engineering fees	\$21,700	\$21,700	\$0	\$21,700	\$21,700	\$0	\$21,700	\$21,700	\$0
e. Other architectural and engineering fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
f. Project inspection fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
g. Site work	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
h. Demolition and removal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
i. Construction	\$831,456	\$222,890	\$608,566	\$506,897	\$350,121	\$156,776	\$531,297	\$350,121	\$181,176
j. Equipment	\$1,351,330	\$173,866	\$1,177,464	\$1,289,850	\$86,469	\$1,203,381	\$1,351,330	\$86,469	\$1,264,861
k. Miscellaneous	\$97,593	\$8,000	\$89,593	\$78,942	\$5,985	\$72,957	\$97,593	\$5,985	\$91,608
<b>l. SUBTOTAL (add a through k)</b>	<b>\$2,992,029</b>	<b>\$598,406</b>	<b>\$2,393,623</b>	<b>\$2,559,849</b>	<b>\$560,491</b>	<b>\$1,999,358</b>	<b>\$2,664,380</b>	<b>\$560,491</b>	<b>\$2,103,889</b>
m. Contingencies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>n. TOTALS (sum of l and m)</b>	<b>\$2,992,029</b>	<b>\$598,406</b>	<b>\$2,393,623</b>	<b>\$2,559,849</b>	<b>\$560,491</b>	<b>\$1,999,358</b>	<b>\$2,664,380</b>	<b>\$560,491</b>	<b>\$2,103,889</b>

2. Program Income: Please provide the program income you listed in your application budget and actuals to date through the end of the reporting period.

a. Application Budget Program Income: \$440,000

b. Program Income to Date: \$109,311