



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND GRANTS

March 26, 2013

Michelle Taylor
South Hill Manager
BIT Communications
215 S. Mecklenburg Ave.
South Hill, VA 23970

Re: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative (Buggs Island), Wireless Broadband Initiative
Grant Award # NT10BIX5570065

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Thank you for the March 18, 2013 submission, which is in response to the January 4, 2013, Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and suspension letter. Based on an initial review of this response, NTIA has recommended that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grants Office partially lift the suspension of the Buggs Island BTOP award in order for Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative to secure a third-party partner to address technical, organizational, and financial concerns with its BTOP-funded project and to complete federal reporting requirements. In order to reach an agreement with a partner and complete the network deployment, NOAA is extending your grant award period to September 30, 2013. I understand that Buggs Island is currently in discussions with potential partners, and these negotiations must be concluded timely—and address the outstanding CAP issues—in order for the suspension to be fully lifted. During the partial suspension, only expenses for the above mentioned activities, expenses related to reporting, and those expenses outlined in the January 4, 2013 letter are allowable under the award.

Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative will remain on agency review status. Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative should continue to submit payment requests via the Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) and an Award Action Request for agency review and consideration.

Additionally, the Buggs Island CAP response remains under review, and the NOAA Grants Office and NTIA may request additional documentation or other information to clarify any questions relating to the CAP response.

If you have any questions, please contact your Federal Program Officer, Barbara Brown, at (202) 482-.4374 or bbrown@ntia.doc.gov. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



Arlene Simpson Porter, Director
NOAA Grants Management Division

cc: Larry Jenkins, NOAA
Anthony Wilhelm, Ph.D., NTIA
Aimee Meacham, NTIA
Laura Dodson, NTIA
Barbara Brown, NTIA
Scott Woods, NTIA