May 5, 2025

Ms. Celeste Chaney-Tucker – <u>celeste.chaney-tucker@ks.gov</u> Executive Director Kansas Corporation Commission 1500 SW Arrowhead Road Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Re: Docket No. 25-EBBV-109-KSF

In the Matter of the Audit of Eagle Broadband, LLC. by the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) Administrator Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-2010(b) for KUSF Operating Year 27, Fiscal Year March 2023 – February 2024

Dear Ms. Chaney-Tucker:

In its August 6, 2024 Order, the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) directed Vantage Point Solutions (VPS) to perform a KUSF carrier audit of Eagle Broadband, LLC (Eagle or Company) to ensure that the data submitted to the KUSF via the KUSF CRWs, the assessments paid, and the calculation and application of the flow-through surcharge billed to and collected from Eagle's customers, if applicable, are appropriate and accurate.

The KCC directed VPS to file two (2) versions of the audit report with the KCC; one (1) version containing confidential information and one (1) version with the confidential data redacted for public disclosure. Eagle's audit does not require a separate confidential report; therefore, only the enclosed public audit report for Eagle is being filed.

Copies of the supporting documentation, including VPS' audit work papers and information provided by the company, are not included with the audit report, but are available from VPS, upon request.

Sincerely,

Shomari Jackson

cc: Steve Garrett - steve.garrett@ks.gov



#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, the above Kansas Universal Service Fund Audit Report was e-filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission and a copy was sent via electronic mail and/or U.S. Mail to:

KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION 1500 S.W. ARROWHEAD ROAD TOPEKA, KS 66604

BRETT W. BERRY
LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION
COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
Brett.Berry@ks.gov

DENNIS SMITH
VANTAGE POINT SOLUTIONS
2930 MONTVALE DRIVE, STE B
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704
dennis.smith@vantagepnt.com

WENDY HARPER
USF SERVICES MANAGER
VANTAGE POINT SOLUTIONS
2930 MONTVALE DRIVE, SUITE B
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704
wendy.harper@vantagepnt.com

NICOLE STEPHENS KUSF ADMINISTRATOR MANAGER VANTAGE POINT SOLUTIONS 2930 MONTVALE DRIVE SUITE B SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704 JEFF DEMEDEIROS EAGLE BROADBAND,LLC 4 INTERNATIONALDRIVE, SUITE 330 RYE BROOK, NY 10573 ieff.demedeiros@vvvebb.com

nicole.stephens@vantagepnt.com

Shomari Jackson





# Vantage Point Solutions, Inc. Revised Audit Report for Eagle Broadband, LLC

From: Shomari Jackson, Auditor

**Company Personnel**: Jeff DeMedeiros, Controller & Senior Vice President

Sean McCann, Regulatory Tax Compliance Manager

**Date:** April 15, 2025

On-Site Visit Date: February 18-20, 2025

**KUSF Status**: Current with Reporting & Payment obligations

Re: Docket No. 25-EBBV-109-KSF

In the Matter of the Audit of Eagle Broadband, LLC by the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) Administrator Pursuant to K.S.A. 66-2010(b) for KUSF Operating Year 27, Fiscal Year March 2023 – February 2024

#### **Audit Summary**

Pursuant to the Kansas Corporation Commission's (KCC or Commission) August 6, 2024 Order, Vantage Point Solutions, Inc. (VPS) conducted an audit of Eagle Broadband, LLC (Eagle or Company) based on the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) Revised Audit Procedures adopted for KUSF Fiscal Year 27 (FY27). VPS identified six (6) findings resulting from the Company's non-compliance with the Commission's KUSF policies, with a net impact to the Fund of an increase of \$1,517.88. The Company is current with its KUSF obligations.

- **Finding No. 1** Eagle did not report its Voice Calling Charges, resulting in an underpayment of \$881.51 to the KUSF.
- **Finding No. 2** Eagle did not report its Late Fee revenues, resulting in an underpayment of \$253.08 to the KUSF.
- **Finding No. 3** Eagle did not report its Paper Billing Fee revenues, resulting in an underpayment of \$1,178.94 to the KUSF.
- **Finding No. 4** Eagle reported its Commercial Aldo Rental equipment revenues, resulting in an overpayment of \$795.65 to the KUSF.
- **Finding No. 5** Eagle allocated revenue to the KUSF using a company-specific traffic factor study. The Company has not submitted a pleading, including an affidavit from an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Order Accepting VPS' KUSF Proposed Revisions to Selection Criteria and Carrier Review Procedures, Docket No. 23-GIMT-261-GIT, July 2, 2024 (23-261 Order).

officer of the Company, to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC or Commission) regarding its methodology to allocate Kansas revenue between the interstate and intrastate jurisdictions, or to verify that the Company is using the same methodology for both Federal and Kansas USF purposes.

• **Finding No. 6** – Eagle did not correctly complete Block C of its Carrier Remittance Worksheets (CRWs), with no financial impact to the KUSF.

VPS recommends the Commission issue an Order to adopt this Audit Report and the identified findings and direct Eagle to:

- 1. File audit True-ups for FYs 26, 27, and 28 to include its Voice Calling Charges, Late Fees, and Paper Billing Fees, to exclude its Commercial Aldo Rental equipment revenues, and to report the actual KUSF surcharge collected from customers in Block C of its CRW;
- 2. Remit \$1,517.88 to the KUSF;
- 3. Update its billing system to include KUSF surcharge collection from Voice Calling Charges, Late Fees, and Paper Billing Fees revenues;
- 4. Update its KUSF reporting procedures to include Voice Calling Charges, Late Fees, and Paper Billing Fees revenues in its reporting, to exclude the Commercial Aldo Rental equipment revenue from its reporting, and to report the actual KUSF surcharge collected from customers in Block C of its CRWs;
- 5. Submit a pleading affirming its use of a company-specific traffic factor study to allocate revenue between interstate and intrastate jurisdictions, the period(s) the methodology was applicable, the intrastate factors applied, and verifying that the Company is using this methodology for both Federal and Kansas USF purposes; and
- 6. File an affidavit, signed by an officer of the Company, attesting that the Company:
  - a. Remitted \$1,517.88 to the KUSF;
  - b. Updated its billing system to include KUSF surcharge collection on its Voice Calling Charges, Late Fees, and Paper Billing Fees;
  - Updated its KUSF reporting procedures to include Voice Calling Charges, Late Fees, Paper Billing Fees, to exclude its Commercial Aldo Rental equipment revenues, and to report the actual KUSF surcharge collected from customers in Block C of its CRW;
  - d. Submitted a pleading affirming its use of a company-specific traffic factor study to allocate revenues between the interstate and intrastate



jurisdictions, the periods the methodology was applicable, the intrastate factors applied, and verifying that the Company is using this methodology for both Federal and Kansas USF purposes; and

The affidavit should provide the date the corrective actions were implemented.

VPS recommends Eagle be directed to take all corrective actions within 30 days from the date of the Commission's Order. VPS will file a Compliance Report in the Docket within 60 days of the Order.

The Company is current with its KUSF obligations.

Eagle disagrees with the Audit Report.

#### Background

During the course of the audit, VPS issued seventeen (17) Data Requests (DRs) to Eagle. DR No. 15 is included as Attachment A.

Eagle operates as a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) provider and is headquartered in Rye Brook, NY.

Eagle is required to report its revenue and pay the related assessments to the KUSF on a monthly basis.<sup>2</sup> The Company is authorized to collect an amount equal to or less than its KUSF assessment from customers, and does so.<sup>3</sup> The Company is not a designated Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in Kansas, therefore, it does not offer Lifeline services to its customers.

Pursuant to Commission Order,<sup>4</sup> VPS confirmed that Eagle offers bundled assessable and non-assessable services to its Kansas customers. The Company reports revenue and remits assessments to the KUSF based on the unbundled price of the assessable service subject to the KUSF assessment. The Company states it uses this same allocation methodology for Federal USF (FUSF) and KUSF purposes.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Current KUSF Obligations**

The Company is current with its KUSF obligations.6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Confirmed with the KUSF Administrator on April 8, 2025.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Order Setting the Kansas Universal Service Fund Assessment Rate for Year Ten and Establishing Reporting Requirements, Docket No. 06-GIMT-332-GIT, Jan. 23, 2006 (06-332 Order).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> K.S.A. 66-2008(a).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Order Determining KUSF Contribution Methodology, ¶ 27, Docket No. 14-GIMT-105-GIT, Oct. 20, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Eagle's response to DR 17.

# **Current Audit Findings**

VPS conducted the audit of Eagle in accordance with the KUSF Audit Procedures adopted by the KCC.<sup>7</sup> Based on the referenced procedures, VPS identified the following audit findings and provides the following recommendations:

#### **Audit Finding No. 1**

**Standard:** Companies are to contribute to the KUSF based upon the provider's intrastate telecommunications services net retail revenues<sup>8</sup>

**Finding:** Eagle did not report its Voice Calling Charges to the KUSF.<sup>9</sup> As a result, the Company under-reported its intrastate revenues and underpaid its KUSF contributions for the March 2022 – February 2025 Fiscal Years (FY 26, 27, and 28) in the amount of \$881.51. The Company did not collect the KUSF surcharge from customers for Voice Calling Charges.

**Recommendation:** VPS recommends that Eagle be directed to file audit True-ups for FYs 26, 27, and 28, to include Voice Calling, to correct its KUSF reporting procedures to include Voice Calling Charges, and remit \$881.51 to the KUSF.

VPS also recommends that Eagle be directed to file an affidavit, signed by an officer of the Company, attesting that the Company has corrected its KUSF reporting procedures to include Voice Calling Charges in its reporting and remitted \$881.51 to the KUSF.

VPS recommends Eagle be directed to take all corrective actions within 30-days from the date of the Commission's Order. VPS will file a Compliance Report in the Docket within 60-days of the Order.

#### **Audit Finding No. 2**

**Standard:** Miscellaneous recurring and non-recurring intrastate retail revenues, including Late Fee revenues, are Kansas intrastate retail revenues subject to the KUSF.<sup>10</sup>

**Finding:** Eagle did not report its Late Fee revenues to the KUSF.<sup>11</sup> As a result, the Company under-reported its intrastate revenues and underpaid its KUSF contributions for the March 2022 – February 2025 Fiscal Years (FY 26, 27, and 28) in the amount of \$253.08. The Company did not collect the KUSF surcharge from customers for Voice Calling Charges.

**Recommendation:** VPS recommends that Eagle be directed to file audit True-ups for FYs 26, 27, and 28, to include its Late Fee revenues in its reporting. VPS also recommends that Eagle be directed to remit \$253.08 to the KUSF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Attachment A



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 23-261 Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> K.S.A. 66-2008. *See also* KUSF Remittance Information; Instructions and Forms; Attachment E <a href="https://vantagepnt.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/KUSF\_Remittance\_2024-2025\_Attachment\_E.pdf">https://vantagepnt.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/KUSF\_Remittance\_2024-2025\_Attachment\_E.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Attachment A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Order On Issue of Uncollectible Revenue and Additional KUSF Revenue Reporting Issues, Docket No. 94-GIMT-478-GIT, Aug. 13, 1999.

VPS also recommends that Eagle be directed to file an affidavit, signed by an officer of the Company, attesting that the Company has corrected its KUSF reporting procedures to include Late Fee revenues in its reporting and remitted \$253.08 to the KUSF.

.

VPS recommends Eagle be directed to take all corrective actions within 30-days from the date of the Commission's Order. VPS will file a Compliance Report in the Docket within 60-days of the Order.

#### Audit Finding No. 3

**Standard:** Miscellaneous recurring and non-recurring intrastate retail revenues, including Billing Fees, are Kansas intrastate retail revenues subject to the KUSF.<sup>12</sup>

**Finding:** Eagle did not report its Paper Billing Fees to the KUSF.<sup>13</sup> As a result, the Company under-reported its intrastate revenues and underpaid its KUSF contributions for the March 2022 – February 2025 Fiscal Years (FY 26, 27, and 28) in the amount of \$1,178.94. The Company did not collect the KUSF surcharge from customers for Voice Calling Charges.

**Recommendation:** VPS recommends that Eagle be directed to file audit True-ups for FYs 26, 27, and 28, to include its Paper Billing Fees in its reporting. VPS also recommends that Eagle be directed to remit \$1,178.94 to the KUSF.

VPS also recommends that Eagle be directed to file an affidavit, signed by an officer of the Company, attesting that the Company has corrected its KUSF reporting procedures to include Paper Billing Fees in its reporting and remitted \$1,178.94 to the KUSF.

VPS recommends Eagle be directed to take all corrective actions within 30-days from the date of the Commission's Order. VPS will file a Compliance Report in the Docket within 60-days of the Order.

#### **Audit Finding No. 4**

**Standard:** Customer equipment rental revenue is non-assessable revenue.<sup>14</sup>

**Finding:** Eagle reported its Commercial Algo SIP Phone Revenues to the KUSF.<sup>15</sup> As a result, the Company over-reported its intrastate revenues, and overpaid its KUSF contributions for the March 2022 – February 2025 Fiscal Years (FY 26, 27, and 28) in the amount of \$795.65.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> KUSF Remittance Information; Instructions and Forms; Attachment E
 <a href="https://vantagepnt.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/KUSF\_Remittance\_2024-2025\_Attachment\_E.pdf">https://vantagepnt.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/KUSF\_Remittance\_2024-2025\_Attachment\_E.pdf</a>.
 <sup>15</sup> Attachment A



5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Order On Issue of Uncollectible Revenue and Additional KUSF Revenue Reporting Issues, Docket No. 94-GIMT-478-GIT, Aug. 13, 1999.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Attachment A

**Recommendation:** VPS recommends that Eagle be directed to file audit True-ups for FYs 26, 27, and 28, to exclude its Commercial Algo SIP Phone Revenues from its reporting, and to correct its KUSF reporting procedures to exclude Commercial Algo SIP Phone revenues.

VPS also recommends that the Company be directed to file an affidavit, signed by an officer of the Company, attesting that the Company has corrected its KUSF reporting policies to exclude the reporting of its Commercial Algo SIP Phone Revenues.

VPS recommends Eagle be directed to take all corrective actions within 30-days from the date of the Commission's Order. VPS will file a Compliance Report in the Docket within 60-days of the Order.

**Management Response to Finding 4:** "For Finding 4 we confirm that we did include equipment revenues from Commercial Algo Rentals in our calculation of KS USF revenues. However, our Billing team has confirmed that no customers were charged a KS USF tax on the rentals. Therefore, we will not need to refund any customers."

**Auditor Response to Finding 4 Management's Response:** The auditor agrees with the Company's revised response to DR 15 (Attachment A) and that the Company does not collect the KUSF surcharge on its Commercial Algo SIP Phone Revenues. The recommendation has been adjusted to reflect this.

#### **Audit Finding No. 5**

**Standard:** Any interconnected VoIP provider wanting to allocate revenue to the interstate and intrastate jurisdiction for USF purposes using the traffic study methodology must file a pleading with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) prior to using such methodology.<sup>16</sup>

**Finding:** Eagle used a company-specific traffic study to determine the identification of intrastate and interstate revenues.<sup>17</sup> The Company has not submitted a pleading to the KCC advising the Commission of this methodology, nor has it filed annual updates. Eagle has not provided an affidavit from an officer of the Company to verify that the Company is using the same methodology for both Federal and Kansas USF purposes.

**Recommendation:** VPS recommend that Eagle be directed to submit a pleading, accompanied by an affidavit from an officer of the Company, requesting to use the traffic study methodology for KUSF purposes and that the Company shall apply the inverse of the FUSF factor for KUSF reporting purposes. The Company should identify the factors used and the time period for each applicable factor. The Commission should direct the Company to submit annual updates in accordance with Commission Orders.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Attachment A.



6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Order Setting the Kansas Universal Service Fund Assessment Rate for Year Sixteen and Cancelling Hearing, Docket No. 12-GIMT-168-GIT, Jan. 24, 2012.

VPS recommends Eagle be directed to take all corrective actions within 30-days from the date of the Commission's Order. VPS will file a Compliance Report in the Docket within 60-days of the Order.

#### **Audit Finding No. 6**

**Standard:** A Company is to report the amount of its actual KUSF assessments collected from customer in Block C of the CRW.<sup>18</sup>

**Finding:** Eagle did not report the actual amount of the KUSF surcharge collected from its customers in Block C on several of its monthly CRWs for FY 27, with no financial impact to the KUSF.<sup>19</sup>

**Recommendation:** VPS recommends that Eagle be directed to file audit True-ups for FYs 26, 27, and 28 to include the actual KUSF surcharge collected from customers in Block C.

VPS recommend that Eagle be directed to update its KUSF reporting procedures to include the actual KUSF surcharge collected from customers in Block C of the CRWs.

VPS also recommends that the Company be directed to file an affidavit, signed by an officer of the Company, attesting that the Company corrected its KUSF reporting procedures to include the actual KUSF surcharge collected from its customers in Block C of its CRWs.

VPS recommends Eagle be directed to take all corrective actions within 30-days from the date of the Commission's Order. VPS will file a Compliance Report in the Docket within 60-days of the Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Order Adopting Audit Report, Docket No. 19-RWLZ-033-KSF, Jan. 24, 2019. See also KUSF Carrier Remittance Instructions, Plan Year 2023-2024; (CRW Instructions), II.A.





7

# **KUSF Carrier Audit Information Request**

Submitted By:

Shomari Jackson

Submitted To:

Sean McCann

**Company Name:** 

Eagle Broadband Investments, LLC

**Docket Number:** 

25-EBBV-109-KSF

Request Date:

March 11, 2025

**Due Date:** 

March 20, 2025

#### Data Request No. 15

# RE: Confirmation of Auditor Understanding

Please confirm the auditor's understanding of the following items is correct. If the statements are incorrect, please provide clarification.

- The Company allocates the intrastate portion of its revenue using a companyspecific traffic factor. I agree.
- The Company has not filed the company-specific traffic factor with the KCC for KCC approval I agree
- The Company did not report its late fee revenues to the KUSF. I agree.
- The Company did not report its paper billing fees to the KUSF. (I agree)
- The Company did not report its voice calling charges to the KUSF. I agree
- The Company reported its Commercial Aldo Rental equipment revenues to the KUSF. I agree
- The Company collected the KUSF surcharge on its Commercial Aldo Rental equipment revenues. Lagree.
- The Company did not correctly fill out Box C of the CRW. I agree.

**NOTE:** If for some reason, the above information cannot be provided by the date requested, your Company must submit a Request for Additional Time.

# **KUSF Carrier Audit Information Request**

# Verification of Response - DR15

I have read the foregoing Data Request and answer(s) thereto and find answer(s) to be true, accurate, full and complete, and contain no material misrepresentations or omissions to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I will disclose to VPS' auditor any matter subsequently discovered which affects the accuracy or completeness of the answer(s) to this Data Request.

sign: Sea P. McCan

Date: 3 17 25