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NOTICE OF EX PARTE

March 25, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 21, 2013, Jeff Lanning and Melissa Newman of CenturyLink met with Michael Steffen of the office of Chairman Genachowski and Julie Veach and Carol Matthey of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the above-captioned proceeding.

We discussed Connect American Fund Phase I Incremental Support (CAF I). Specifically, we again encouraged the Commission to move quickly to respond to the strong public demand for broadband in unserved areas and to anchor institutions by adopting the modest and easily-implemented proposal filed jointly by the ABC Coalition, the Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Association (ITTA), and the United States Telecom Association (USTelecom).¹ CenturyLink explained that, with this proposal, well over 150,000 homes and businesses in areas served by CenturyLink would gain access for the first time to broadband as defined by the Commission. We also noted the wide support from members of Congress for this proposal.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa Newman

Attachment

Copy via email to:
Michael Steffen
Julie Veach
Carol Matthey

¹ Comments of the ABC Coalition, ITTA & USTelecom, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket 10-90, filed Jan. 28, 2013.



Century**Link**TM

Connect America Fund

Phase I

Round 2

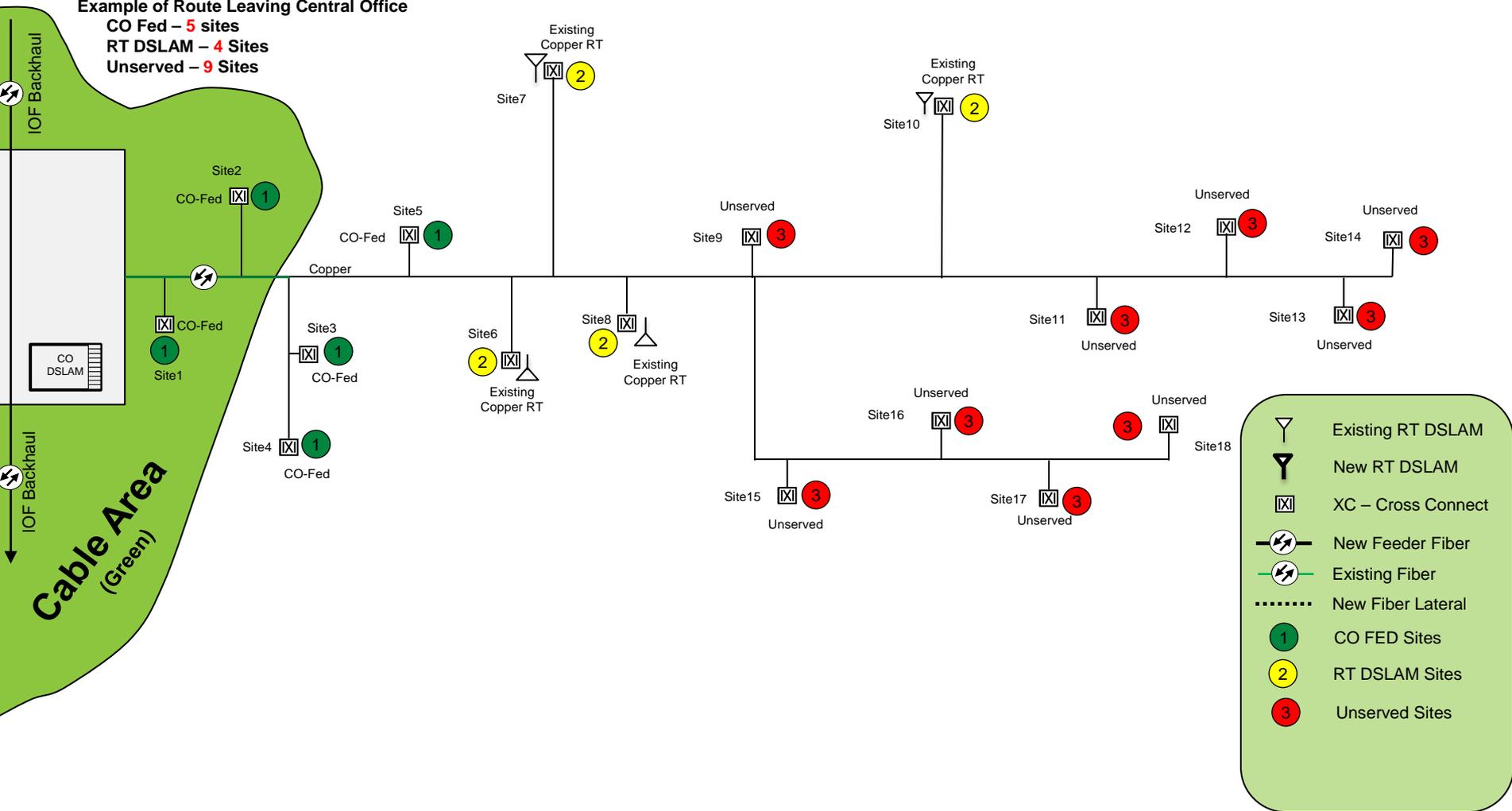
March 19, 2013

Connect America Fund - Phase I Round 2

CAF I Round 2 – Example Route BEFORE BUILD

Example of Route Leaving Central Office

CO Fed – 5 sites
 RT DSLAM – 4 Sites
 Unservd – 9 Sites



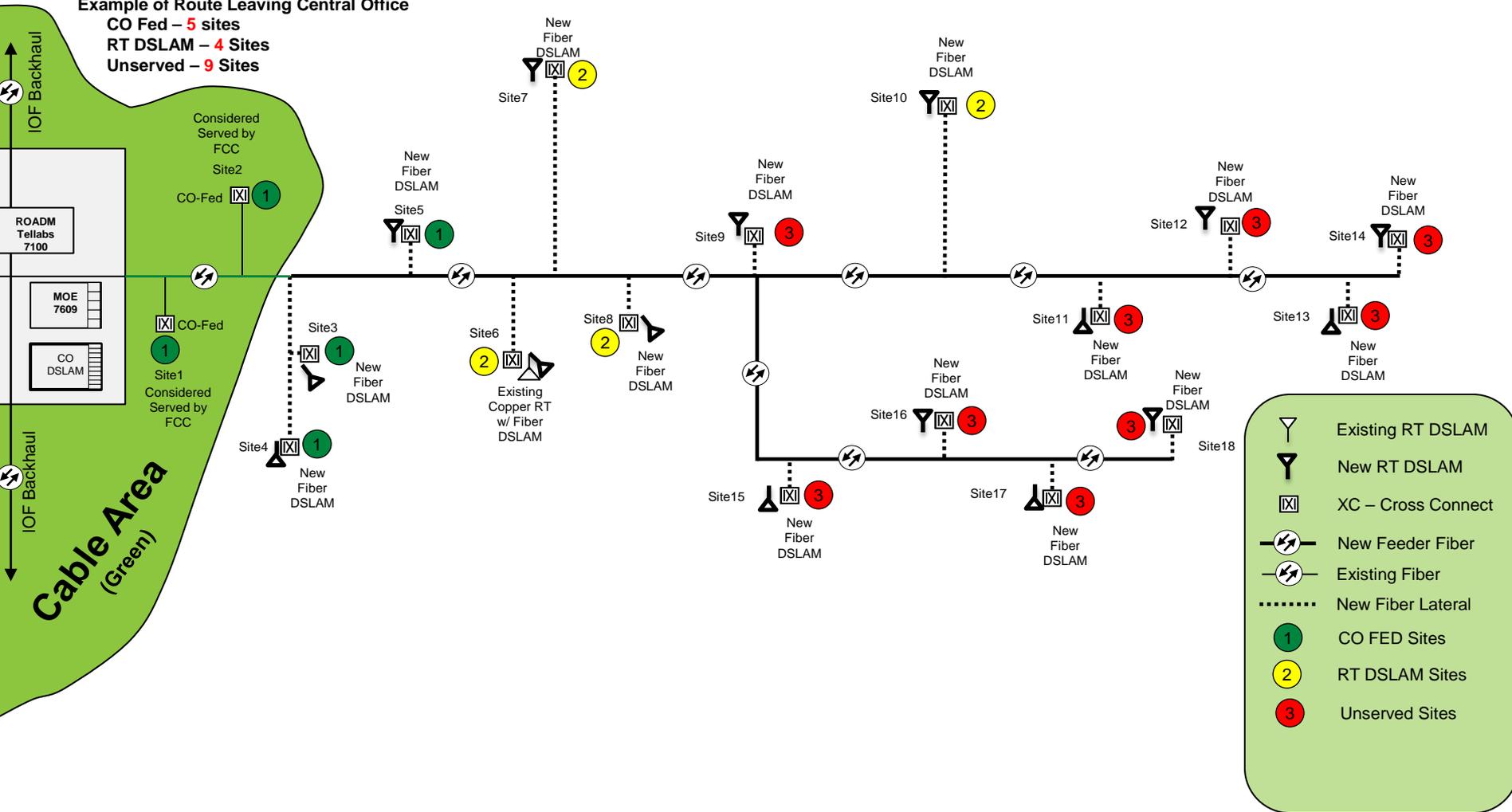
- Existing RT DSLAM
- New RT DSLAM
- XC – Cross Connect
- New Feeder Fiber
- Existing Fiber
- New Fiber Lateral
- CO FED Sites
- RT DSLAM Sites
- Unservd Sites

Connect America Fund - Phase I Round 2

CAF I Round 2 – Example Route AFTER BUILD

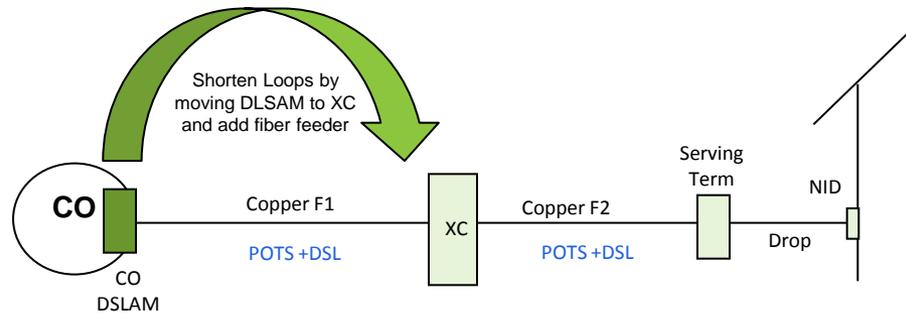
Example of Route Leaving Central Office

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Connect America Fund - Phase I Round 2

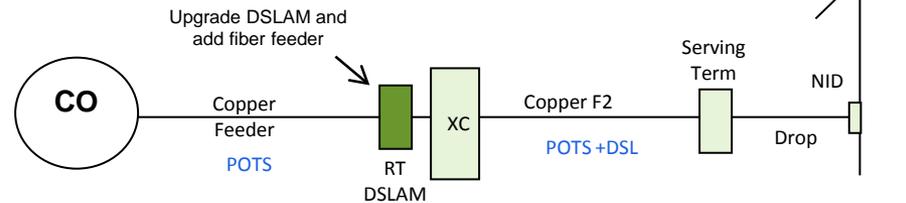
Central Office Based DSL



Central Office based DSL:

- 34% of eligible LUs in proposed build are served from CO Based DSLAM today
- Each eligible Cross Connect (XC) Served from CO today would require new remote DSLAM and fiber build to meet 4/1 standard

Copper Fed Remote DSLAM

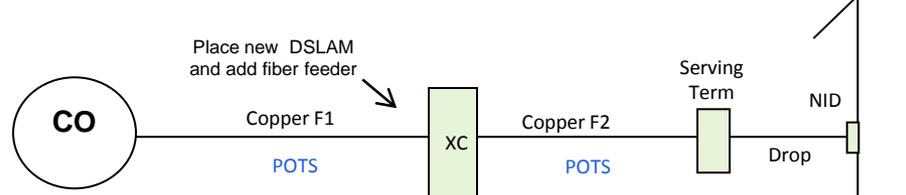


Copper Fed Remote (RT) DSLAM:

- 40% of eligible LUs in proposed build are served from Copper Fed RT DSLAM today
- Typically has a modestly higher density of LUs than Unserved Sites
- May have existing power infrastructure that can be reused
- May or may not have space in existing cabinet for DSLAM placement
- May require time and expense for the removal of old DSLAM as well as placement of new Fiber Fed DSLAM in existing cabinet. Optionally, a collocated DSLAM and cabinet may need to be placed; whichever is less disruptive to the customer.
- Sites are farther from CO than typical CO served LUs and would require a fiber build

On average eligible Unserved Sites have modestly longer feeder routes than Copper Fed Remote DSLAMs

Unserved Sites



Unserved Sites:

- 26% of eligible LUs in proposed build are unserved today
- Have lower density of LU per cross connect than Remote DSLAMs
- Beyond CO DSL reach and have insufficient LU density to economically place a Remote DSLAM
- Upgrade would require fiber build, site prep, power, grooming of distribution and new DSLAM