STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 21 - _____ - PET

De Minimis Application of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems,)
LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless, for a Certificate of Public Good,)
pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing the co-location)
of telecommunications equipment on an existing silo)
in East Montpelier, Vermont)

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF LOUIS HODGETTS, P.E. ON BEHALF OF BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE SYSTEMS, LLC d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS

February 4, 2021

Summary:

Mr. Hodgetts' testimony will describe the Project and address the Project's conformance with de minimis requirements.

Q1. Please state your name, employer and current position.

A1. My Name is Louis Hodgetts. I am a Professional Engineer and Project Manager employed by DuBois & King, Inc., in South Burlington, Vermont, which has provided engineering and consulting services to Verizon Wireless and its predecessors since the mid 1990's.

Q2. Please briefly state your professional background.

A2. I graduated from University of Vermont, College of Engineering with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. I have worked at Dubois & King, Inc. since May 2005. I obtained my Professional Engineering License in June, 2009. I have worked in the area of design and permitting of wireless telecommunications facilities since 2008. During that time, I have provided expert testimony and reports regarding tower siting and site design before numerous bodies administering local zoning bylaws, Act 250 and 30 V.S.A. § 248a. I have experience in many facets of permitting and design of wireless telecommunications facilities, including evaluation of aesthetic and land use impacts.

Q3. Have you ever testified before the Public Service Board or Public Utility Commission?

A3. Yes. I participated in the design of and/or provided prefiled testimony in Docket No. 8103 (Town of Norwich), Docket No. 8221 (Berlin North), Docket No. 8169 (Duxbury), Docket No. 8219 (West Rutland), Docket No. 8220 (Bradford), among others, all involving the issuance of a CPG authorizing the installation or upgrade of a Verizon Wireless telecommunications facility.

Q4. Please identify the location of the Project that is the subject to this § 248a filing.

A4. Verizon proposes to co-locate wireless telecommunications equipment on an existing

Harvestore farm silo ("Silo") at 141 Lyle Haven Road in East Montpelier. Verizon's ground-mounted equipment will be housed on an equipment platform ("Platform") located between the north and south wings of the barn ("Barn") to which the Silo is attached. As shown on Sheet C-2 of the permit plans attached as Exhibit LH-1, the Platform will be located within the footprint of the Barn. Verizon has received the Silo owner's permission to file this application. Verizon refers to this project as "Montpelier East", and its location is described as follows:

- **Montpelier East** is located on the Silo at the farm located at 141 Lyle Haven Road in East Montpelier. The coordinates of Montpelier East are latitude 44°15'37.94" North and longitude 72°29'25.91" West.

Q5. Please describe, in detail, the design of the proposed Project.

A5. Verizon proposes to mount a total of nine (9) panel antennas ("Antennas"), nine (9) Remote Radio Heads ("RRHs") and one (1) OVP Distribution Box ("Distribution Box"), with supporting equipment and cabling, on the exterior of the 90.9' above ground level ("AGL") Silo. The Antennas and RRHs will be mounted in three (3) sectors of three (3) each. The centerline of the Antennas, RRHs and Distribution Box will be approximately 83' AGL, and the Antennas will extend to approximately 86' AGL, which is below the top of the Silo. The RRHs and Distribution Box will be mounted beside the Antennas. *See* Exhibit LH-1, Sheet C-3. The aggregate visible surface area of that equipment is 53.69 square feet as detailed in the chart on Sheet C-6 of Exhibit LH-1. Full and accurate

specifications of the proposed Antennas, RRHs and Distribution Box are detailed in Exhibit MM-1.[1]

Verizon has obtained a structural analysis showing the capability of the Silo to hold Verizon's equipment. Exhibit LH-2.

Verizon proposes to locate its telecommunications equipment on the 9' by 15' elevated Platform located between the north and south wings of the Barn. As shown on Sheet C-2 of Exhibit LH-1, the Platform will be located within the footprint of the Barn. The Platform will be covered by a canopy. The Platform will also house a 20 KW diesel-fueled emergency generator ("Generator").

Co-axial, fiber, electric, and hybrid fiber cables from the Antennas will be routed through a cable tray on the exterior of the Silo to the ground. From that point, those cables will run underground to the equipment on the Platform. From that equipment, these cables will again run underground to the nearest utility pole.

There will be no changes to: (1) the property boundaries and setbacks, (2) utilities, (3) wetlands, (4) drainage or erosion control, (5) screening, landscaping, ground cover, fencing, exterior lighting and signage, or (6) access to the Silo and Barn.

Q6. Will the installation increase the height or width of the support structure?

A6. No. There will be no change to the height or width of the Silo and no changes to the footprint of the Barn.

Q7. Will the addition of the antennas and improvements extend vertically above the height of the support structure to which they are attached by more than ten feet?

[1] From time to time, equipment manufacturers may slightly alter their products or Verizon Wireless may purchase from different suppliers. Therefore, there is a possibility that the actual antennas may differ slightly from what is described in the attached specifications.

A7. No. The topmost point of the Antennas will be 86' AGL, which is 4.9' below the top of the Silo.

Q8. Will the addition of the antennas and improvements extend horizontally from the support structure or the facility by more than ten feet (10')?

A8. No. The Antennas, RRHs and Distribution Box will extend less than 10' horizontally from the Silo. *See* Exhibit LH-1.

Q9. Will the addition of the antennas and improvements on the support structure, excluding cabling, increase the aggregate visible surface area of the faces of the antennas on the support structure by more than 75 square feet?

A9. No. The aggregate visible surface area of the faces of the Antennas, RRHs and Distribution Box will be 53.69 square feet.

Q10. Will there be any increase in the impervious surface area at this location?

A10. All proposed improvements are located on the Silo or within the footprint of the Barn. This project will result in 135 square feet (9' x 15') of impervious surface, which is below the 300 square foot limit for *de minimis* facilities.

Q11. Please identify all existing permits relating to the facility and any conditions contained in those permits that could impact the proposed improvements.

A11. I know of no such permits.

Q12. Does this conclude your Prefiled Direct Testimony?

A12. Yes.

Exhibits to Prefiled Testimony of Louis Hodgetts, P.E.

Exhibit LH-1	Montpelier East Permit Drawings
Exhibit LH-2	Structural Analysis Letter
Exhibit LH-3	Generator Specifications