

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 21-0820-PET

Petition of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC requesting a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing the installation of wireless telecommunications equipment at 141 Lyle Haven Road, East Montpelier, Vermont	
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMENTS

On February 4, 2021, Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) filed an application with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (Commission), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a(k), for approval of a *de minimis* installation of wireless telecommunications equipment on an existing farm silo building located at 141 Lyle Haven Road in East Montpelier, Vermont. Verizon does not currently operate any telecommunications equipment at this location.

Based on the February 4, 2021 application, supporting testimony, and accompanying exhibits, Verizon proposes the following installations as part of this project:

1. Installation of nine (9) panel antennae at centerline heights of 83' above ground level (AGL) on the sides of the 90.9' AGL silo;
2. Installation of nine (9) new remote radio head units (RRUs) on the silo adjacent to the panel antennae;
3. Installation of one OVP Distribution Box on the silo adjacent to the antennae;
4. Construction of an elevated platform between two barn buildings which will be used to house a 20kW diesel generator and Verizon's telecommunications equipment cabinets;
5. Installation of other appurtenances, conduits, and cabling necessary for the operation of the facility.

The Department of Public Service ("Department") has reviewed Verizon's application

and accompanying exhibits and concludes that the project qualifies as *de minimis* under 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2). Neither the height nor the width of the silo will be increased, and the proposed new equipment will not extend vertically or horizontally more than ten feet from the existing silo and barn structures. Upon completion of the project, the net increase in the surface area of the equipment installed on the silo will be less than 75 square feet. Finally, there will be no new impervious surfaces at the site. Verizon also submitted a structural analysis report demonstrating that the silo will be structurally capable of accommodating the proposed equipment.

The Project (1) qualifies as *de minimis* under § 248a(b)(2); (2) will promote the general good of the state; and (3) furthers state telecommunications policy and planning goals pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 202c(b). Also, to date, the Department has not received comments on Verizon's application from any municipal legislative body, members of the public, or other state agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Department respectfully recommends that the Commission issue an order approving Verizon's petition without further hearings or investigation.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 8th day of March, 2021.

Vermont Department of Public Service

By: /s/ Daniel C. Burke
Daniel C. Burke, Special Counsel
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
(802) 828-4019
dan.burke@vermont.gov