

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Petition of T-Mobile Northeast, LLC)
pursuant to)
30 V.S.A. § 248a(k), requesting a)
Certificate of Public Good for a de)
minimis modification to a wireless)
Telecommunications facility in)
Swanton, Vermont)

Case No. 25-_____-PET

Entered: _____

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD ISSUED
PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A. §248a

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Public Utility Commission of the State of Vermont (“PUC”) this day found and adjudged that that proposal by T-Mobile Northeast, LLC for a de minimis modification to an existing wireless telecommunications facility located at 54 Woods Hill Road, Swanton VT (“the Project”), will promote the general good of the State of Vermont in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 248a, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Operation and maintenance of the Project shall be in accordance with the plans and evidence submitted in this proceeding. Any material or substantial change in the Project is prohibited without prior PUC approval. Failure to obtain advance approval from the PUC for a material deviation from the approved plans may result in the assessment of a penalty pursuant to 30 VSA §§ 30 and 247.
2. The Project shall comply with applicable existing and future statutory requirements and PUC Rules and Orders.
3. This Certificate of Public Good shall not be transferred without prior approval of the PUC.

Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____) PUBLIC UTILITY
_____) COMMISSION
_____) OF VERMONT

A True Copy:
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed:

Attest: _____
Clerk of the Public Utility Commission

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the PUC (by email, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: puc.clerk@state.vt.us).

Petition of T-Mobile Northeast LLC)
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Order Entered: _____

This case involves a petition and pre-filed testimony filed on May 12, 2025, requesting that the Commission issue a CPG approving *de minimis* modifications to the existing facility, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2). Pursuant to § 248a(k), notice of the Project was provided to the host property owner, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”), (to the Commissioner, Department of Public Service and to the Director of Public Advocacy, Public Advocacy Division) and the legislative body of the host municipality.

On _____, 2025, the Department filed comments on the Project. The Department recommends that the Commission approve the petition without further hearings or investigation.

No other comments on the application were received by the Commission.

No party has requested an evidentiary hearing or objected to the project narrative and exhibits. The Commission has determined that the petition and supporting materials have effectively addressed the applicable substantive criteria of 30 V.S.A. §248a. Consequently, we find that the procedure authorized by §248a is sufficient to satisfy the public interest and no hearings are required. Accordingly, the following are admitted as if presented at a hearing: Accordingly, the following (all of which were submitted contemporaneously with the Petition) are admitted as if presented at a hearing: the Affidavit of Brian Sullivan; Site Plans; Equipment Specifications; Structural Report, and Existing Permits.

III. FINDINGS

Based upon the application and its accompanying documents, the Commission makes the following findings in this matter.

T-Mobile is proposing to modify telecommunications antennas and equipment at an existing telecommunications facility located at 54 Woods Hill Road, Swanton VT, on an existing 76' (+/-) farm silo. Currently, T-Mobile has nine antennas (9) antennas, and six (6) reverse radio head units ("RRUs") mounted on the silo together with equipment and appurtenances situated in and existing compound at the base of the silo (the "Facility".)

T-Mobile intends to make the following changes at the facility (collectively referred to below as the "Project"), as detailed on the Site Plans submitted contemporaneously as an exhibit:

- (a) Remove three (3) existing antennas (identified on plans as “RFS APXV18-206517S-C-A20”). See Sheet A-3 of the Site Plans. Remove three (3) existing tower mounted amplifiers (“TMAs”) (identified on plans as “RFS ATM1900D”). See Sheet A-2 and A-3 of the Site Plans.
- (b) Install three (3) new antennas. The new antennas each measure approximately 75.8” x 11.3” and each has a facial square footage of 5.94 sq. feet, for a total facial surface area of approximately 17.84 square feet. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans.
- (b) Install three (3) new RRUs. The new RRUs measure each approximately 19.6” x 15.7” and each has a facial square footage of 2.13 sq. feet, for a total facial surface area of approximately 6.41 square feet. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans.
- (c) The two sets of antennas will have slightly different centerline heights. One set will be at a centerline height of approximately 57’ aboveground level (“AGL”) and one set will be at a centerline height of 55’ AGL. The RRUs will be slightly below the antennas on the silo. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans.
- (d) The current antennas, TMAs and RRUs have a total facial surface area of approximately 62.25 square feet. The total facial surface area of the new antennas and RRUs is approximately 76.30 sq feet, for an increase of 14.06 sq. feet. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans.
- (e) The height and width of the silo is not changing. There is no vertical extension from the silo and that is not changing. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans. The current antennas have a horizontal extension of two foot four inches (2’4”) and the new configuration will also have a horizontal extension of two foot four inches (2’4”), so there is no increase. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans.
- (f) There is an existing fenced equipment compound at the base of the silo. See Sheet A-1 of the Site Plans. The size and shape of the compound is not changing. There is an existing concrete

pad inside the fenced area and the size and shape of the pad is not changing. See Sheet A-1 of the Site Plans. One existing cabinet is being removed and an existing H-frame adjacent to the pad is being extended slightly to accommodate some new equipment. Two new equipment cabinets and one slack box with more equipment are being added to the pad. See Sheet A-1 of the Site Plans. There will be no new impervious surface as a result of the project. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans. The existing cable route to the silo is not being changed. The proposed project will not involve clearing or excavations outside the current silo site.

(g) Install ancillary improvements and appurtenances consisting of hardware necessary for the operation of the Facility.

IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Pursuant to 30 VSA § 248a(b)(2), *de minimis* modification means:

The addition, modification, or replacement of telecommunications equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on a telecommunications facility or existing support structure . . . , or the reconstruction of such facility or support structure, provided:

(A) The height and width of the facility or support structure, excluding equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements, are not increased;

(B) The total amount of impervious surface, including access roads, surrounding the facility or support structure is not increased by more than 300 square feet;

(C) The addition, modification, or replacement of an antenna, or any other equipment on a facility or support structure does not extend vertically more than 10 feet above the facility or support structure and does not extend horizontally more than 10 feet from the facility or support structure;

(D) The additional equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on the support structure excluding cabling, does not increase the aggregate surface area of the faces of the equipment, antennas, or ancillary improvements on the support structure by more than 75 square feet.

Pursuant to the Procedures Order at Section II:

For purposes of this definition, where the proposed ancillary improvements will be installed on, within, or at the base of a building, the ancillary improvements may be excluded from the aggregate surface area calculation in subsection (d) provided that: (1) the ancillary improvements comply with the limitations in

subsection (c) measured from the outer walls of the building (for width) and the highest existing element of the building (for height); (2) the aggregate surface area of the antennas and equipment other than ancillary improvements does not exceed 75 square feet; and (3) any other additions, modifications, or replacements associated with the facility otherwise comply with subsections (a) and (b).

Further, pursuant to § 248a(k) and Section VIII of the Procedures Order, regarding de minimis modifications:

If no objections to the classification of the project are timely filed with the Commission, a CPG shall be issued without further proceedings.

In this case:

1. The Project does not involve increasing the height or width of the existing silo, excluding equipment, antennas and ancillary improvements. 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2)(A). As shown in the Project Information and Dimensions tables on Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans, no new antennas or equipment will extend vertically above the existing silo. The height and width of the silo is not changing. There is no vertical extension from the silo and that is not changing. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans. The current antennas have a horizontal extension of two foot four inches (2'4") and the new configuration will also have a horizontal extension of two foot four inches (2'4"), so there is no increase. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans. Thus, the "addition, modification, or replacement of an antennas or any other equipment on [the] facility or support structure does not extend vertically more than 10 feet above the facility or support structure and does not extend horizontally more than 10 feet from the facility or support structure." 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2)(C).
2. The Project will not result in any additional impervious surface at the site because all antennas, equipment and appurtenance will be installed either on the existing silo or in the existing fenced equipment compound. Thus, the Project does not increase the amount

of impervious surface at the site by more than 300 square feet. 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2)(B).

3. The current antennas and RRUs have a total facial surface area of approximately 62.25 square feet. The total facial surface area of the new antennas and RRUs is approximately 76.30 sq feet, for an increase of 14.06 sq. feet. See Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans. As a result of the Project, the net increase in the surface area of the faces of the antennas and equipment at the Facility is approximately 14.06 square feet. Sheet A-2 of the Site Plans. The installation, therefore, does not increase the surface area of the faces of the antennas and equipment by more than 75 square feet. 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2)(D).
4. The Project will promote the general good of the state, consistent with 30 V.S.A. § 202c(b), insofar as the Project will expand and improve its wireless service coverage within the Town of Swanton and the surrounding area.
5. Therefore, the Project qualifies as “*de minimis* modifications” to an existing facility pursuant to § 248a(b)(2).

Further, no objection to the classification of the Project as *de minimis* modifications has been filed with the Commission.

Based upon all of the above evidence, the public interest is satisfied by the procedures authorized in 30 V.S.A. § 248a, and the proposed Project will promote the general good of the State.

V. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Utility Commission of the State of Vermont that:

1. The modifications to the wireless telecommunications facility at the location specified in the above findings, by T-Mobile Northeast, LLC, in accordance with the evidence and plans submitted in this proceeding, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont in accordance with 30 V.S.A. § 248a(a), and a certificate of public good to that effect shall be issued in this matter.

2. As a condition of this Order, the Petitioner shall comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this Order.

Dated at _____, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

_____) PUBLIC UTILITY
_____) COMMISSION
_____) OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed:

Attest: _____
Clerk of the Commission

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Commission (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: puc.clerk@vermont.gov).

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 30 days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further order by this Commission or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission within 28 days of the date of this decision and Order.

Parties:

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