

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-1543-PET

Petition of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC)
and The Towers, LLC, requesting a certificate)
of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a,)
authorizing the installation of telecommunications)
equipment at 2264 U.S. Route 2 in Marshfield, VT)

COMMENTS OF THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

On July 29, 2025, Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless (“Verizon”) and The Towers, LLC, d/b/a/ Vertical Bridge (“VB”) (together, “Petitioners”) filed an application with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a for approval to construct a wireless telecommunications facility of limited size and scope in Marshfield, Vermont. Petitioners seek to construct a 140’ monopole tower (the “Tower”) on an approximately 78 acre parcel located off 2264 U.S. Route 2 (the “Project”).

Based on the application, supporting testimony, and accompanying exhibits, the Project includes the following installations:

1. Three (3) sectors of antennas mounted on the Tower at the centerline height of 137’ above-ground level (“AGL”);
2. Nine (9) panel antennas (three per sector), with six (6) measuring approximately 72” x 11.9” and three (3) measuring approximately 28.9” x 15.75”, with the topmost height of the antennas reaching approximately 140’ AGL;
3. Six (6) remote radio heads (two per sector), measuring approximately 14.96” x 14.96”, mounted on the sectors such that the topmost points of the remote radio heads do not exceed the topmost points of the antennas;
4. One (1) 12-Port OVP distribution box installed behind the Alpha sectors, measuring approximately 29.5” by 16.5”, mounted such that the topmost point of the OVP does not exceed the topmost points of the antennas;
5. A 50’ x 50’ fenced compound with a 12’ x 20’ equipment shed inside the fenced compound;

6. An emergency generator on a 10' x 12' concrete pad adjacent to the shed, within the fenced compound;
7. Access to the Project via an existing driveway and logging road from U.S. Route 2 that will be extended and upgraded, following the existing road where possible;
8. Underground utilities running from the nearest utility pole to the equipment shed, and a cable bridge to connect cables from the base of the Tower to the equipment shed;
9. Construction will result in approximately 2,500 square feet of permanent earth disturbance, and approximately 4,120 square feet of tree clearing.

The Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) has reviewed Petitioner’s application and concludes that the Project qualifies as a project of limited size and scope under 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(4)(A). The final height of the Project will not exceed 140’ AGL. The Project will result in less than 10,000 square feet of permanent earth disturbance, and the application indicates that the Project will comply with the requirements of the *Low Risk Site Handbook for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control*. Regarding co-location, the exhibits provided by Petitioners demonstrate that there are no existing facilities or support structures that would allow Verizon to provide adequate coverage to the area served by the Project as proposed.

The Department further concludes that the Project does not raise a significant issue with respect to the applicable criteria under 30 V.S.A. § 248a(c) subject to the Department's review. The Project will promote the general good of the state and will advance state telecommunications policy and planning goals pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 202c(b).

The Project has received multiple comments from members of the public living in the Marshfield area. The issues raised in the comments include concerns about aesthetics, compliance with certain provisions of the town plan, and environmental impact. Some comments state that the coverage that would be provided by the Tower is not needed because of the availability of fiber optics and satellite.

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

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont this 5th day of September 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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