

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 25-2578-PET

Petition of T-Mobile Northeast, LLC requesting a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing the installation of wireless telecommunications equipment at 1298 Machia Road in Sheldon, Vermont	
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Order entered: 12/05/2025

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

I. INTRODUCTION

In this Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) approves the application filed by T-Mobile Northeast, LLC (the “Petitioner”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a and the Commission’s Standards and Procedures Implementing 30 V.S.A. § 248a (“Standards and Procedures”),¹ and grants the Petitioner a certificate of public good (“CPG”) authorizing the modification of a wireless telecommunications facility in Sheldon, Vermont (the proposed “Project”).

II. BACKGROUND

On October 20, 2025, the Petitioner filed a petition and prefiled testimony requesting that the Commission issue a CPG. A copy of the petition was filed with all required State agencies and the host municipality pursuant to § 248a(e). Notice of the filing of the petition was provided to all adjoining landowners of record.

On November 24, 2025, the Vermont Department of Public Service (“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

¹ Case No. 22-5122-INV, *Investigation into revised standards and procedures for issuance of a certificate of public good for communications facilities pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a*, Attachment to Order issued January 18, 2023.

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: the affidavit and prefiled testimony of Jonathan Springer; and the affidavit and prefiled testimony of Brent Gannon and exhs. 1-11.

III. FINDINGS

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

1. The Project involves the modification of a telecommunications facility located on and adjacent to a farm silo at 1298 Machia Road in Sheldon, Vermont. The objective of the Project is to expand and improve wireless coverage in the surrounding area. Petition at exh. 9.

2. The Project includes the installation of six panel antennas of varying sizes mounted at a centerline height of 52' on the 75' silo. The Project also includes the installation of a new 10' by 20' concrete pad with two equipment cabinets and a generator adjacent to the silo and ancillary operating equipment. Petition at exhs. 1 and 9.

3. The Project will involve approximately 200 square feet of permanent earth disturbance. All Project construction will conform to the *Low Risk Site Handbook for Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control*. Petition at exhs. 1 and 9.

4. The Project will not have an undue adverse impact on floodways, the scenic or natural beauty of the area, aesthetics, historic sites, or rare and irreplaceable natural areas. This finding is supported by findings 5-8, below.

5. The Project involves relatively minor modifications to an existing facility. The modifications will not be out of character with the existing telecommunications facility and will, therefore, fit within this context. Accordingly, the Project will not have an adverse effect on aesthetics. Petition at exhs. 1 and 9.

6. The Project will have no adverse impact on rare or irreplaceable natural areas, wildlife habitat, or endangered species because there are none in the Project vicinity. Petition at exh. 9.

7. The Project will not have an adverse effect on historic sites given that it involves minimal modifications to an existing facility. Petition at exh. 9.

8. The Project will have no adverse effect on floodplains because there are no floodplains in the area. Petition at exh. 9.

9. The Project is consistent with existing land use and zoning permits. Petition at exh. 9.

10. The Project is consistent with the goals in the Sheldon Town Plan and the Northwest Regional Plan. Petition at exhs. 5, 6, and 9.

IV. DISCUSSION

The procedures governing Commission approval of telecommunications facilities are set forth in 30 V.S.A. § 248a. Section 248a(1) provides that the Commission:

may issue rules or orders implementing and interpreting this section. In developing such rules and orders, the Commission shall seek to simplify the application and review process as appropriate. . . .

In order to implement the statute the Commission adopted the Standards and Procedures. In accordance with § 248a(b)(4), the Standards and Procedures, at Section II, defines a project of “limited size and scope” as:

a new telecommunications facility, including ancillary improvements, that does not exceed 140 feet in height; or an addition, modification, replacement, or removal of equipment at an existing telecommunications facility or support structure, and ancillary improvements, that would result in a total facility height of less than 200 feet and does not increase the width of the existing support structure by more than 20 feet. To qualify as a project of limited size and scope, construction of the project must not result in earth disturbance of more than 10,000 square feet of earth, excluding temporary earth disturbance associated with construction activities.

As required by § 248a(c)(1) and set forth in Section IV(H) of the Standards and Procedures, in reviewing projects of limited size and scope the Commission conditionally waives:

all criteria under 30 V.S.A. § 248a(c)(1), except for 10 V.S.A. §§ 6086(a)(1)(D) (floodways) and 6086(a)(8) (aesthetics, historic sites, rare and irreplaceable natural areas, endangered species, necessary wildlife).

The Project will not exceed 200' in height and will result in less than 10,000 square feet of additional permanent earth disturbance. Therefore, the Project qualifies as a project of limited size and scope.

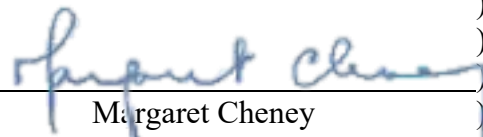
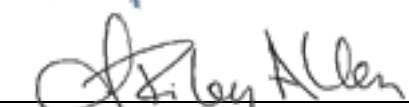
Accordingly, based upon all of the above evidence, the Commission has concluded that the petition does not raise a significant issue with respect to the relevant substantive criteria of 30 V.S.A. § 248a, the public interest is satisfied by the procedures authorized in 30 V.S.A. § 248a, and the proposed 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 installation and operation of a 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 must comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this Order.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 5th day of December, 2025.

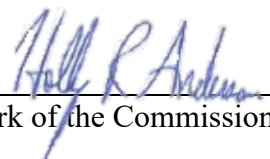
	)	
Edward McNamara	)	PUBLIC UTILITY
	)	
	)	
Margaret Cheney	)	COMMISSION
	)	
	)	
J. Riley Allen	)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

December 5, 2025

Filed:

Attest:


Clerk of the Commission

Notice to Parties: Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with 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 Commission within 28 days of the date of this order.

PUC Case No. 25-2578-PET - SERVICE LIST

Parties:

*Catherine Gjessing, General Counsel
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
anr.notice@vermont.gov

(for Vermont Agency of
Natural Resources)

David Grayck
Law Office of David L. Grayck, Esq.
PO Box 386
North Bennington, VT 05257
David@graycklaw.com

(for T-Mobile Northeast,
LLC)

Jonathan Springer
Springer Law Office, PLC
118 Maplewood Avenue Suite C3
Portsmouth, NH 03801
jspringer@jspringerlaw.com

(for T-Mobile Northeast,
LLC)

Michael Swain
Vermont Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620
michael.swain@vermont.gov

(for Vermont
Department of Public
Service)

*Notice of appearance to be filed.