

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 25-____-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 modification)
of telecommunications equipment on an existing facility)
in Sheldon, Vermont)

Order entered:

I. INTRODUCTION

In this Order, the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission") approves the application filed by Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC, d/b/a Verizon ("Applicant"), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, and the Commission's *Order Adopting Revised Standards and Procedures Implementing 30 V.S.A. § 248a*, issued by the Commission on January 18, 2023 and grants the Applicant a certificate of public good ("CPG") authorizing modification of wireless telecommunications equipment on an existing Tower in the Town of Sheldon, Vermont (the "Project").

II. BACKGROUND

This case involves a petition and prefiled testimony filed by the Applicant on December 8, 2025, requesting that the Commission issue a CPG, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing modification of wireless telecommunications equipment co-located on an existing Tower in the Town of Sheldon, Vermont. The Applicant is seeking approval for the project as *de minimis* modifications to an existing support structure, pursuant to §248a(b)(2).

On _____, 202_, the Department of Public Service (the "Department") filed a letter with the Commission recommending that the Commission issue an order approving the petition without additional hearings or investigation.

No statutory party has objected to the classification of the Project as *de minimis* and no other comments regarding the petition have been filed with the Commission.

The Commission has determined that the petition and prefiled testimony 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.

III. FINDINGS

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

1. Verizon proposes to modify an existing wireless telecommunication facility located an approximately 140.01' above ground level ("AGL") monopole tower ("Tower") located at 567 E. Sheldon Road in the Town of Sheldon. Verizon refers to the Project as "Sheldon VT-A". The coordinates of the Project are latitude 44.89549 North and longitude 72.925042 West. The location of the Project is shown on Exhibit PB-1 Permit Plans. The property owner has given Verizon permission to proceed with this application.

2. On December 11, 2018, Land Use Permit #6F0604-1A issued to Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems of Allentown, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Wireless authorized the installation of Verizon's equipment on the existing telecommunications facility located at this site. This project consists of modifications to the equipment installed on the Tower pursuant to the aforementioned permit.

3. Verizon currently has six (6) panel antennas, three (3) remote radio heads ("RRH"), and one (1) OVP distribution box installed on the Tower.

4. Verizon now proposes to add the following: three (3) antennas, which each measure 3.17 sq., three (3) diplexers, which each measure 0.46 sq. ft., and three (3) RRHs, which each measure 1.56 sq. ft. See Permit Plans at Sheet C-202 and C-401. The diplexers and RRHs will be mounted behind the antennas, and hence are considered to have no visible facial surface area. The Antennas will be mounted at a centerline of 110' AGL, the same as the existing equipment. The

topmost height of the proposed Antennas will extend to approximately 111.17' AGL, which is below 140.01' AGL the top of the existing tower.

5. The aggregate visible surface area of the existing equipment on the Tower is 41.40 square feet. Following the proposed modification, the aggregate visible facial surface area will be 50.91 square feet. Full and accurate specifications of the proposed Antennas, RRH, and Diplexer are detailed in Exhibit MM-1.

6. A Structural Analysis (See Exhibit PB-2) conducted by American Tower Corporation, dated October 10, 2025 and Post-Modification Mount Analysis conducted by Tower Engineering Solutions, LLC dated September 29, 2025 (See Exhibit PB-1, Sheets R-601 to R-605), concluded that the Tower and antenna mounts will have sufficient capacity to support the proposed modifications, following the mount modifications outlined in Exhibit PB-2 and PB-1 at Sheets C-401, R-601 to R-605.

7. The existing hybrid co-axial cable will serve the proposed equipment.

8. Verizon will gain access to the Tower using the existing access drive from East Sheldon Road.

9. No site clearing is necessary and there no new impervious surface area will be created. 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 Tower and Compound.

1. The aggregate visible surface area of the faces of the Antennas, RRHs and other ancillary equipment following the modification will be 50.91 square feet.

2. The Project will result in no additional impervious surface area.

IV. DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A § 248a(b)(2), the Amended Procedures Order defines a *de minimis* modification as:

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 feet.

Pursuant to the Procedures Order at Section II:

For the purpose 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.

The proposed Project will consist of the modification of telecommunications equipment co-located on an existing Tower. The Project, excluding equipment, antennas and ancillary improvements, will not increase the height or width of the support Tower or the facility, and will result in no additional impervious surface area. The aggregate visible surface area of the faces of the Antennas, RRHs and Diplexer to be installed on the Complex following the modification will be 50.91 square feet. No Antennas, RRHs and Diplexer will extend vertically more than 10' from the top of the Complex. No Antennas, RRHs and Diplexer will extend more than 10' horizontally from the Tower. Therefore, the Project qualifies as a "*de minimis* modification" to an existing facility pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2). Further, no objections to the classification of the Project as a *de minimis* modification have 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 Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC, d/b/a Verizon ("Verizon"), 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 Petitioners shall comply with all terms and conditions set out in the CPG issued in conjunction with this Order.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this ____ day of _____, 202__.

	)	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 thirty 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 ten days of the date of this decision and order.

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Order entered:

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

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission") this day found and adjudged that the proposed modification of telecommunications equipment ("Project") by Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless, on an Tower located at 567 E. Sheldon Road in Sheldon, Vermont will promote the general good of the State, subject to the following 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 Commission approval. Failure to obtain advance approval from the Commission for a material deviation or substantial change from the approved plans may result in the assessment of a pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 30 and 247.
2. The Project shall comply with all applicable existing and future statutory requirements and Commission Rules and Orders.
3. The Certificate of Public Good shall not be transferred without approval of the Commission.

Signatures on next page

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this ____ day of _____, 202_.

_____))
_____)) PUBLIC UTILITY
_____))
_____)) COMMISSION
_____))
_____)) OF VERMONT
_____))

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: _____

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Commission

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