

**NOTICE TO SELECTBOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF
SOUTH HERO PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A. § 248a(e)**

30 V.S.A. § 248a(e) requires that the legislative body (Selectboard) and planning commission of the municipality in which the project is to be located receive a statement that:

itemizes the rights and opportunities available to those bodies under subdivisions (c)(2) and (e)(2) of this section and under subsections (m), (n), and (o) of this section and informs them of the guide published under subsection (p) of this section and how to obtain a copy of that guide.

Id. This statement appears below.

- Pursuant to (c)(2):

Unless there is good cause to find otherwise, substantial deference has been given to the plans of the affected municipalities; to the recommendations of the municipal legislative bodies and the municipal planning commissions regarding the municipal plans; and to the recommendations of the regional planning commission concerning the regional plan. Nothing in this section or other provision of law shall prevent a municipal body from basing its recommendations to which substantial deference is required under this subdivision (2) on an ordinance adopted under 24 V.S.A. § 2291(19) or bylaw adopted under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 by the municipality in which the facility is located. A rebuttable presumption respecting compliance with the applicable plan shall be created by a letter from an affected municipal legislative body or municipal planning commission concerning compliance with the municipal plan and by a letter from a regional planning commission concerning compliance with the regional plan.

- Pursuant to (e)(2):

On the request of the municipal legislative body or the planning commission, the applicant shall attend a public meeting with the municipal legislative body or planning commission, or both, within the 60-day notice period before filing an application for a certificate of public good. The Department of Public Service shall attend the public meeting on the request of the municipality. The Department shall consider the comments made and information obtained at the meeting in making recommendations to the Commission on the application and in determining whether to retain additional personnel under subsection (o) of this section.

- Pursuant to (m):

Municipal bodies; participation. The legislative body and the planning commission for the municipality in which a telecommunications facility is located shall have the right to appear and participate on any application under this section seeking a certificate of public good for the facility.

- Pursuant to (n):

Municipal recommendations. The Commission shall consider the comments and recommendations submitted by the municipal legislative body and planning commission. The Commission's decision to issue or deny a certificate of public good shall include a detailed written response to each recommendation of the municipal legislative body and planning commission.

- Pursuant to (o):

Retention; experts. The Department of Public Service may retain experts and other personnel as identified in section 20 of this title to provide information essential for the full consideration of an application for a certificate of public good under this section. The Department may allocate the expenses incurred in retaining these personnel to the applicant in accordance with section 21 of this title. The Department may commence retention of these personnel once the applicant has filed the 60-day notice under subsection (e) of this section. A municipal legislative body or planning commission may request that the Department retain these personnel. Granting such a request shall not oblige the Department or the personnel it retains to agree with the position of the municipality.

- Pursuant to (p):

Review process; guide. The Department of Public Service, in consultation with the Commission, shall create, maintain, and make available to the public a guide to the process of reviewing telecommunications facilities under this section for use by local governments and regional planning commissions and members of the public who seek to participate in the process. The Department has created this guide and made it publicly available. That guide can be found at https://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/dps/files/documents/Public%20Guide%20248a_0.pdf The Standards and Procedures Order implementing 30 V.S.A. §248a effective January 18, 2023 may also provide useful information. The Order may be found at https://puc.vermont.gov/sites/psbnew/files/doc_library/22-5122-inv-248a-standards-procedures-eff-01-18-23.pdf