

**STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Case No. 26-____-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 Swanton, Vermont)

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARIA MONTROSE

**ON BEHALF OF BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE SYSTEMS, LLC,
D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS**

February 26, 2026

Summary:

Ms. Montrose's testimony will address the proposed installation and how the Project will promote the general good of the State of Vermont.

1 **Q1. Please state your name, employer and current position.**

2 A1. My name is Maria Montrose, I am the Principal Radio Frequency ("RF") Engineer
3 currently working for Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless
4 ("Verizon").

5 **Q2. Please state briefly your educational and professional background.**

6 A2. I have worked as an RF engineer for Verizon since September 1995. My credentials as an
7 RF engineer include the following:

- 8 • Responsible for the design and implementation of cellular, AWS, PCS and LTE
9 base stations in Connecticut and Vermont. This entails site selection, antenna
10 selection, propagation analysis, cell site layout/design, frequency planning, and
11 coordination with neighbors and carriers in Canada for sites near the international
12 border.
- 13 • Responsible for filings with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal
14 Communications Commission ("FCC").
- 15 • Responsible for RF exposure and safety compliance checks and overall system
16 optimization.
- 17 • Responsible to provide engineering support for the deployment of all services
18 offered by Verizon including voice, high speed data, E-911, SMS (text messaging)
19 and mobile instant messaging.

20 In addition, I am a certified instructor/training facilitator for OSHA RF safety and
21 compliance.

22 **Q3. Have you ever testified before the Public Service Board or Public Utility Commission?**

23 A3. Yes. I have submitted prefiled testimony in Case No. 19-0248-PET (Burlington) among

1 others. In addition, I have testified before Act 250 District Commissions and Vermont
2 Zoning and Development Review Boards when those Commissions and Boards were
3 processing Verizon's applications. I have testified on many occasions before the
4 Connecticut Siting Council, which has jurisdiction over telecommunications facilities.

5 **Q4. Please identify the location of the Project that is the subject to this § 248a filing.**

6 A4. Verizon proposes to modify an existing wireless telecommunication facility located on an
7 70' above ground level ("AGL") silo ("Silo") located at 54 Woods Hill Road in the Town
8 of Swanton. Verizon refers to the Project as "Swanton South SC1 VT". The coordinates of
9 the Project are latitude 44.896347 North and longitude -73.082878 West. The location of
10 the Project is shown on Exhibit LH-1 Permit Plans. The property owner has given Verizon
11 permission to proceed with this application.

12 On April 24, 2017 the Public Utility Commission ("PUC") approved the Petition of Bell
13 Atlantic Mobile Systems of Allentown, Inc. and Cellco Partnership each d/b/a Verizon
14 Wireless in Case No. 17-2673-PET authorizing the installation of Verizon's equipment on
15 the Silo. This project consists of modifications to the equipment installed pursuant to the
16 Order and CPG.

17 **Q5. From a Radio Frequency Engineer's prospective, please describe what site**
18 **improvements will be necessary for the proposed Project.**

19 A5. Verizon currently has two (2) antennas, one (1) remote radio head ("RRH"), and one (1)
20 6-Port OVP distribution box installed on the Silo.

21 Verizon now proposes to remove two (2) antennas which each measure 6.02 sq. ft. and one
22 (1) RRH which measures 1.80 sq. ft.

23 They will be replaced by three (3) antennas on the Silo, two (2) of which measure 5.92 sq.

1 ft. and one (1) of which measure 3.16 sq. ft. See Permit Plans at Sheets C-2 and C-3. The
2 Antennas will be mounted at the centerline, 62' AGL. The topmost height of the Antennas
3 will extend to 65' AGL.

4 Verizon also proposes to install two (2) RRHs, one (1) of which will measure 1.55 sq. ft.,
5 and one (1) of which will measure 2.62 sq. ft., and one (1) NGOVP which measures 0.83
6 square feet.

7 The aggregate visible surface area of the existing equipment installed on the Silo is 15.94
8 square feet. Following the proposed modification, the aggregate visible facial surface area
9 will be 22.1 square feet. Full and accurate specifications of the proposed Antennas, RRHs,
10 and NGOVP are detailed in Exhibit MM-1.¹

11 The Prefiled Testimony of Louis Hodgetts, P.E. discusses the location of the other
12 equipment at the Site.

13 **Q6. Please address the level of radiation associated with the proposed equipment.**

14 A6. Under federal law, Verizon is required to comply with the radiofrequency ("RF") emission
15 levels established by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). Calculations
16 using the most extreme assumptions, which could not possibly be duplicated at the site,
17 demonstrate that RF emission levels for each site will still be well below the Maximum
18 Permissible Exposure limits established by the FCC.

19 **Q7. Does this conclude your Prefiled Direct Testimony?**

20 A7. Yes.

¹ From time to time, equipment manufacturers may slightly alter their products or Verizon Wireless may purchase from different suppliers. Therefore, there is a possibility that the actual antennas may differ slightly from what is described in the attached specifications.

Exhibits to Prefiled Testimony of Maria Montrose

Exhibit MM-1

Antenna, RRH, and NGOVP Specifications