

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Case No. 26-0548-PET

Petition of Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC requesting a certificate of public good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, authorizing the installation of wireless telecommunications equipment at 54 Woods Hill Road in Swanton, Vermont	
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COMMENTS OF VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

On March 24, 2026, Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Verizon” or “Petitioner”), filed an application with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a, for approval of additional telecommunications equipment (“Project”) at an existing facility located at 54 Woods Hill Road in the Town of Swanton, Vermont (“Facility”). The Facility consists of 70’ farm silo hosting telecommunications antennas with surrounding equipment and appurtenances. The property is owned by Machai Family Holdings, LLC. Petitioner currently holds a certificate of public good for modifications to the facility from Case No. 17-2673-PET.

Based on the application, supporting testimony, and accompanying exhibits, the Petitioner proposes the following changes to the Facility:

1. Removal of two (2) antennas measuring 18.06 sq. ft. in surface area;
2. Removal of one (1) remote radio head measuring 3.16 sq. ft. in surface area;
3. Installation of three (3) antennas, two (2) measuring 5.92 sq. ft. and one (1) measuring 3.16 sq. ft., all mounted at the same centerline height of 62’ above ground level;
4. Installation of two (2) remote radio heads, one (1) measuring 1.55 sq. ft. and one (1) measuring 2.62 sq. ft. and one (1) NGOVP measuring .83 sq. ft.; and
5. Installation of ancillary improvements and appurtenances consisting of conduits and hardware necessary for the operation of the Project.

The Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) has reviewed the Petitioner’s application and determines that the Project qualifies as *de minimis* under 30 V.S.A. § 248a(b)(2). Excluding equipment, antennas, and ancillary improvements, neither the height nor width of the Facility will be increased. The proposed equipment will not extend vertically or horizontally more than ten feet from the existing Facility. Upon completion of the Project, the net increase in the surface area of the equipment installed on the tower will be less than 75 square feet. There will be no new impervious surfaces at the site.

The Department concludes that the Project (1) qualifies as *de minimis* under Sections 248a(b)(2); (2) will promote the general good of the state; and (3) furthers state telecommunications policy and planning goals pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 202c(b). The Department has not received comments on Petitioner’s application from any municipal legislative bodies, members of the public, or other state agencies.

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

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont this 23rd day of April 2026.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

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