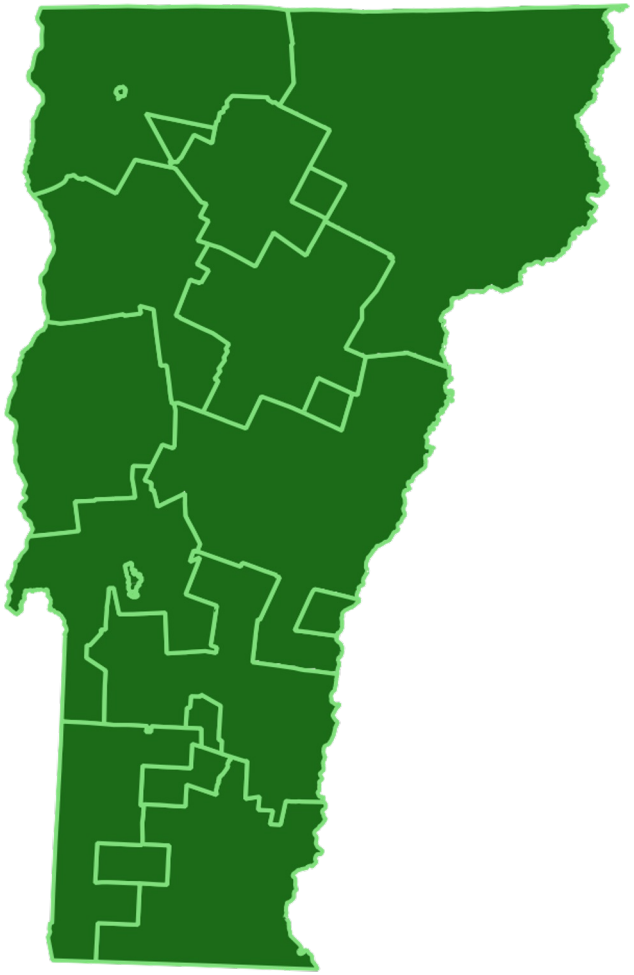


VCUDA

The Vermont Communications Union Districts Association serves to unite the interests of Vermont's municipal internet networks, devising ways to share resources and voicing CUD consensus on critical policy issues.

Before the House Environment and Energy Committee
February 1, 2023

Rob Vietzke
Rob@vcuda.org

About the Communications Union Districts

- Each CUD organized as a result of ***Town Meeting vote to join a CUD***.
- Each ***town*** appoints ***representatives*** to ***participate directly in the CUD governance***.
- ***A CUD is a*** multi-town ***municipality***. (with revenue bond authority, but not taxing authority)
- ***Committed to universal service*** - will reach to every on grid address starting with the currently unserved and underserved.
- ***Accountable and Transparent*** - Town representation in governance assures grassroots involvement, transparency and accountability.
- ***Public Ownership*** - All assets funded by the CUD are owned by the CUD municipality.
- ***Private Partnership*** - CUD typically use a traditional RFP to select a commercial partner to operate the CUD infrastructure.

Some variation on public/private partnerships, but core principles are consistent.

Communications union districts (CUDs) were created … to coordinate and implement creative and innovative solutions in their respective territories, particularly where existing providers are not providing adequate service that meets the needs of their residents and businesses …

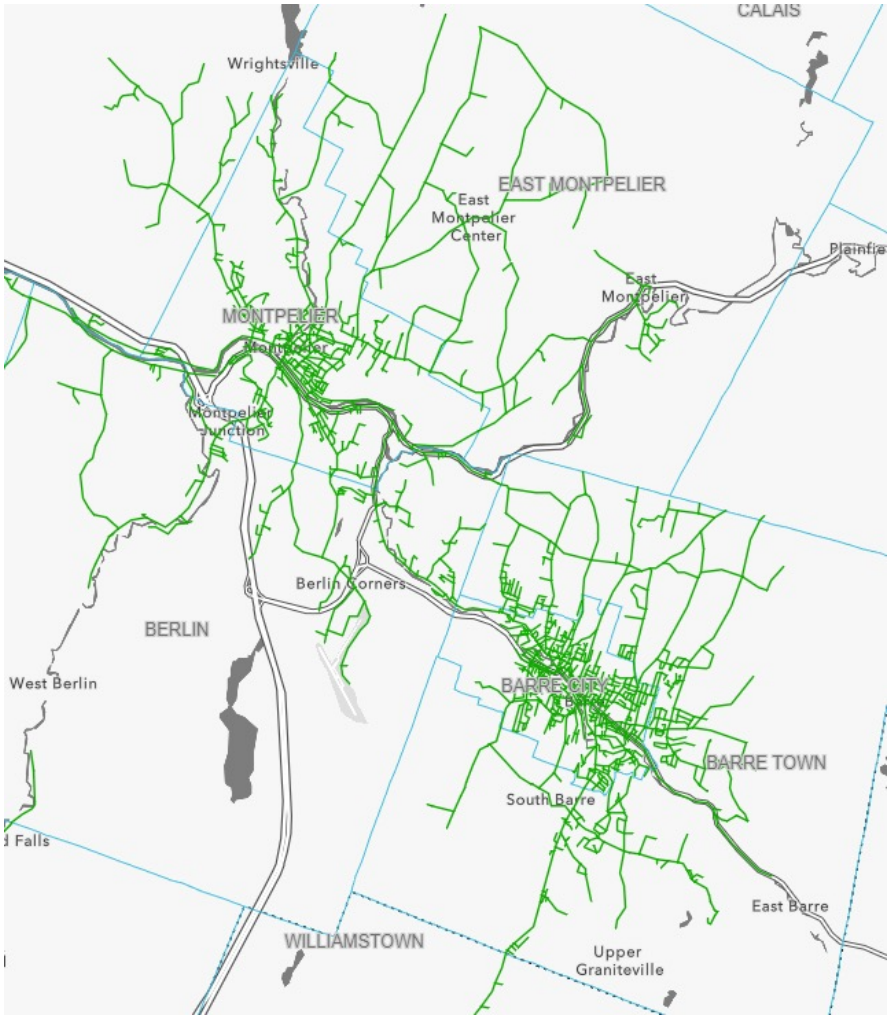
Vermont Act 71 2021
Findings and Intent (13)

CUDs are Mission-Driven.

Where do we place Broadband equipment:

- Many factors:
  - Distance to homes
    - up to 20km or 12.4 miles
    - Depends on specific architecture
  - Cable sizing and poleshed layouts
  - Power
  - Interconnectivity to other parts of the network and hub sites
  - Security / environmental
  - Parking / Serviceability
  - Host site willingness

- Together, these are constraints as to where our equipment can be placed.



Typical CUD Optical Line Terminal (OLT)

- Typically Ground or wall mounted
- Conduits buried from base to one or two adjacent telephone poles (power and fiber cable)
- Needs easy access from a roadway, preferably with safe parking nearby.
- Typically less than 8 feet high.

- Sometimes: Fenced Area. Extra Power Cabinet, etc.

Example Major Hub Site

All Large Sites

- Accommodates Multiple Racks of Equipment for interconnection of multiple systems.

Prefabricated Communications Hut

- Self contained air conditioning and heating.
- Can contain an extra “room” and door for generator and/or battery equipment.
- Currently none of these known to be planned by CUD’s. More typically partnering with municipal facilities.

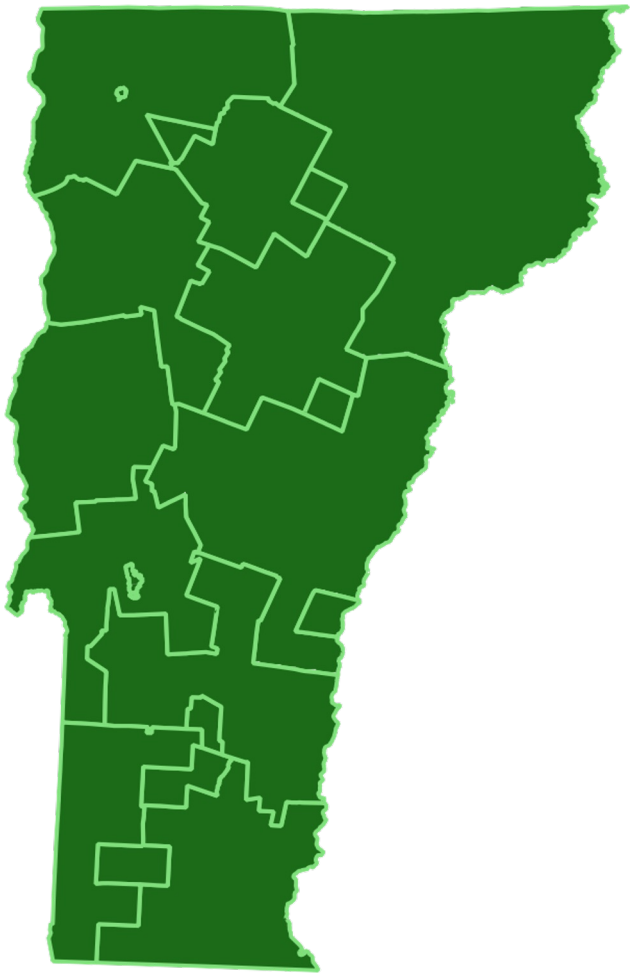
Fire Station in Peacham.

Typical Prefab Hut..

VCUDA Comments on 248a Extension

VCUDA members view 248a as an important alternate siting avenue for potential telecommunications hub sites.

- To date, almost all of our broadband “hub” sites have been sited in a non-controversial way with host property owners and towns.
- VCUDA supports a 3-year renewal and continued 3-year review of 248a. As CUD network expansion continues for the next 5+ years, it is in the public interest to continue to monitor 248a and to revisit it if needed in 3 years.
- Consistent with our community-centered governance model, we support community involvement in siting decisions as well as statewide standards for telecommunications siting.



VCUDA

Thank you!

Before the House Environment and Energy Committee
February 1, 2023 9:00 AM

Rob Vietzke, Program Staff
Rob@vcuda.org