

Dear Representative Botzow,

Below please find some comments from Ms. Diane Guite of VTel regarding 248a.

She asked that we forward this to you. I've copied both Diane and Michel on this as well.

Thanks,

Kiersten

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diane Guité <dguite@vermontel.com>
Date: January 30, 2014 at 1:56:32 PM EST
To: "Porter, James" <James.Porter@state.vt.us>, "Bourgeois, Kiersten" <Kiersten.Bourgeois@state.vt.us>
Cc: Michel Guite <mguite@vermontel.com>
Subject: RE: Telecommunications issues

The below is a summary of VTel Wireless' views on 248a – Kiersten, do you know if there's some way to pass this along, so it's presented tonight?

- VTel Wireless, Inc feels that 248a has been and will continue to be critical to the Company's success in building a statewide 4G wireless network, designed to serve unserved Vermont
- VTel has filed over 100 wireless applications to date using the 248a process
- Even with 248a in place, the permitting process remains cumbersome
 - Site permitting continues to be very costly – we've found permitting costs to be approximately \$40k / site, and in some cases in excess of \$50k
 - Even with 248a in place, it is paramount for VTel to win selectboard support and approval during pre-filing, prior to the 248a PSB submission; this process is often quite long
 - Federal regulations (the NEPA process) often stall projects, offsetting what would be a streamlined 248a process
 - Without 248a, the aforementioned issues will likely be exacerbated
- VTel still has approximately 40 wireless sites that will go into permitting in 2014

- VTel hopes to be able to file these with the PSB in advance of the June 248a sunset; however, a number of factors will determine whether or not the Company is able to do so, including site acquisition, landowner sign-off and agreeable terms, selectboard / town support, environmental, historic, and tribal approvals, and FAA sign-off
- Without the extension of 248a, VTel's progress in bringing high-speed internet to unserved areas could be slowed significantly and – while acknowledging that the VTel Wireless build has taken longer than expected – the Company respectfully requests that this legislation be extended through the end of 2014

Diane Guité

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