

RE: AT&T / FIRSTNET: WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
10 Island Circle, Grand Isle, VT, Parcel ID: 142015.4
Review of Section 248a(e) Advance Notice
PUC Case No. 19-5010-AN

TOWN OF GRAND ISLE, VERMONT

The Town of Grand Isle Selectboard has reviewed the advance notice and materials submitted by New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T (the "Petitioner") on December 30, 2019 and supplemented on January 15, 2020, for the proposed wireless communications facility consisting of a 180' monopole tower and associated communications compound (the "Project") located at 10 Island Circle, on property owned and occupied by the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department. Based upon its review of the materials submitted concerning the Project, and after having the opportunity to obtain answers to members' questions from the Petitioner at the Selectboard meeting held on January 20, 2020, the Selectboard's recommendation to the Vermont Public Utility Commission is as follows:

- We recommend approval of the Project by the Vermont Public Utility Commission, having determined that, on balance, the proposed location for the tower and related facilities at 10 Island Circle is preferable to the Grand Isle Selectboard to previous proposals for a 140' communications tower to be located along Lover's Lane in the Town. We further find that, on balance, the Grand Isle community will benefit from the lease agreement between AT&T and the Sheriff's Department, which will host the tower, the proposed tower will provide important public safety service for first responders through FirstNet, and will provide improved wireless communications service for residents and visitors to Grand Isle.**

We have the following recommendations that Petitioner should address in its Petition for a Certificate of Public Good under 30 V.S.A. § 248a. Specifically, the Petitioner should:

1. Provide site plan drawings, with plans sufficiently detailed to demonstrate protection of natural resources on the property and avoidance of any wetland buffers.
2. Account for the tower's proximity to US Route 2, including design detail materials to substantiate that the tower will collapse unto itself if a catastrophic event were to occur (rather than falling over on to a highway or building).
3. Confirm the absence of impacts on any designated scenic points along the Lake Champlain Scenic Byway.
4. Demonstrate that the added height above 140' is reasonably needed for adequate coverage and capacity.

The Selectboard further finds that, upon receiving this recommendation, and subject to withdrawing its prior advance notice for the facility in Case 19-3273-AN, AT&T has fulfilled its obligations under that certain Memorandum of Understanding dated October 23, 2019.

TOWN OF GRAND ISLE, VERMONT

By:

Anna Marie Demars

Print Name: Anna Marie Demars

Title: Selectboard Chair

Date: February 3, 2020