

30 V.S.A. § 248a(e) Statement of Rights and Opportunities

Pursuant to §§ 248a(c)(2), (e)(2), (m), (n), (o), and (p), for the municipality and planning region in which the proposed facility is located, municipal legislative bodies and municipal / regional planning commissions have the rights and opportunities listed below.

- Substantial deference will be given to duly adopted municipal or regional plans, and any recommendations concerning those plans.
- With respect to municipal legislative bodies and municipal planning commissions, nothing shall prevent you from basing your recommendation(s) on an ordinance adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A., § 2291(19) or a bylaw adopted under 24 V.S.A., chapter 117.
- A letter from your entity / organization will create a rebuttable presumption with the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) respecting compliance with the applicable plans.
- Municipal officials may request that the Petitioner attend a public meeting within the 60-day notice period, before the Petitioner submits its Petition.
- Municipal officials may also request that an official from the Vermont Department of Public Service (“Department”) attend a public hearing during the 60-day notice period. The Department, if in attendance, shall consider any comments made and information obtained at the meeting in making its recommendation to the PUC on the petition, and on whether to retain additional personnel to evaluate the project.
- Municipal legislative bodies and municipal planning commissions may, at the commencement of the 60-day notice process, request that the Department, at Petitioner’s expense, retain experts and other personnel to provide information essential to full consideration of the petition.
- Municipal legislative bodies and municipal planning commissions have the right to appear and participate on any petition seeking a certificate of public good.
- The PUC is required to consider your comments or recommendation(s) when deciding to issue or deny a certificate of public good for the project and shall include a detailed written response to each of recommendation.
- You may learn more about the § 248a process from the *Guide to the 248a process for Siting and Construction of Telecommunications Facilities*, published pursuant to 248a(p), at the Vermont Department of Public Service, 112 State Street, Montpelier, VT, or by visiting <http://publicservice.vermont.gov/telecom/>. You may request a copy by mail by calling the Department at (802) 828-2811.
- Additional documents available on the PUC’s website to assist you with this process include the following:
 - *A Citizen’s Guide to the Public Utility Commission*, available at: <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/citizen-guide-public-utility-commission>.
 - *Public Participation and Intervention in Proceedings Before the Public Utility Commission*, available at: <https://puc.vermont.gov/document/public-participation-and-intervention-proceedings-public-utility-commission>.
 - <http://puc.vermont.gov/document/section-248a-procedures>