

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

DOCKET No. CR 2021-

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS STATE OWNED LAND AND PUBLIC
WATERS IN STARK, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “the Company”), a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire, hereby petitions the Department of Energy (“Department”), for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across State owned land and public waters in Stark, New Hampshire. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the requirements for reasonable service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource O154 Line, originally constructed in 1946, over and across State owned land and public waters in Stark, New Hampshire. The State owned land and public waters that is the subject of this petition have not been previously licensed as they are the original structures.

2. The proposed project for the O154 encompasses a full line rebuild. All 11 structures at the State owned land crossing span will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents having the design and specifications depicted and noted in the Structure Details of Exhibits 3 through 5 and the Structure Detail column of Exhibit 7. The replacement structures will be renumbered as detailed under the Structure Table enclosed herewith as Exhibit 7. The project also includes replacement and renumbering of the two structures supporting one public water crossing span, as

depicted in the Structure Detail of Exhibit 2 and as noted under the Exhibit 7 Structure Table. The proposed project also encompasses reconductoring the three existing conductors with new specifications as detailed under the Cable Schedule on Exhibits 2 through 6 hereto. Additionally, both pole top mounted shield wires will be replaced with two OPGW communication cables having the specifications noted in the said Cable Schedules. All structure replacements will be located within 10 feet of the existing locations, with the exception of new Structure 78 and 80, which are being moved approximately 30 feet west to minimize impacts to wetlands for this project and future maintenance. Changes in structure heights required to meet current safety and reliability clearance requirements for the replacement cables and new structure locations and also to address uplift considerations specific to the surrounding terrain are detailed under the enclosed Structure Table as Exhibit 7.

3. The one public water crossing and two State owned land crossing spans that are the subject of this petition are depicted on Exhibit 1 as a high-level perspective of the locations. Additional site location descriptions of the span location are as follows.

Exhibit 2– The O154 Line crosses the Upper Ammonoosuc River (143' wide) in the Town of Stark between Structures 38 and 39, approximately 880 feet southwest of where the O154 Line crosses Northside Road, which is approximately 3,400 feet southeast from the intersection of Lee Hill Road and Northside Road.

Exhibit 3 & 6 – The O154 Line crosses a State-owned land parcel, identified as Percy State Forest, in the Town of Stark between Structures 55 and 59, which starts approximately 1.41 miles east of where the O154 Line crosses Northside Road, which is approximately 3,400 feet southeast from the intersection of Lee Hill Road and Northside Road. The crossing extends approximately 1,800 feet east where it ends approximately 2,200 feet west of where the O154 Line crosses Christine Lake Road, which is approximately 425 feet north from the intersection of Christine Lake Road and Percy Road.

Exhibits 4 to 6 – The O154 Line crosses a State-owned land parcel, identified as Nash Stream Forest Natural Area, in the Town of Stark between Structures 73 and 83, which starts approximately 0.95 miles east from where the O154 Line crosses Christine Lake Road, which

is approximately 425 feet north from the intersection of Christine Lake Road and Percy Road. The crossing extends approximately 4,149 feet east and ends approximately 1,400 feet west from where the O154 Line crosses Bell Hill Road, which is approximately 530 feet south from the intersection of Bell Hill Road and Pike Pond Road.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this petition are as indicated on the Structure Detail and Profile View of Exhibit 2 through 6.

5. The location of structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing span:

I. Upper Ammonoosuc River: Stark (Exhibit 2)

- i. Renumbered Structures: Str. 37 & 38
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 642.6'
- iii. Public Water Span (ft): 143.4'

II. State Owned Land: Stark Map/Lot 204/1 (Exhibit 3 & 6)

- i. Renumbered Structures: Str. 55 to 59
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 2,158.8'
- iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 1,799.5'

III. State Owned Land: Stark Map/Lot 406/4 (Exhibit 4 through 6)

- i. Renumbered Structures: Str. 73 to 83
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 4,509.2'
- iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 4,149.2'

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 through 6 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public waters and State owned land crossings.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossing at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1), which is 18.6' for 115 kV wires over water areas not-suitable for sail boating or where sail boating is prohibited,

and 20.1' for 115 kV wires over other areas traversed by vehicles such as cultivated, grazing, forest, and orchard lands, industrial sites, commercial sites, etc. The actual minimum height over public waters and State owned lands are depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 through 6 and summarized in the Table encompassing Exhibit 7 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

8. The line rebuild project on the O154 will require a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit Notification (SPN) permit for temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the construction and installation of new structures, including those that are the subject of this petition in the Town of Stark. It is not known at this time if other environmental permits, for example a Shoreland Permit by Notification or Alteration of Terrain Permit, will be required, however all environmental permits necessary will be obtained prior to construction. Those portions of the O154 line rebuild located within White Mountain National Forest will obtain authorization or exemption under the National Environmental Policy Act prior to construction.

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the Upper Ammonoosuc River as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required.

10. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the public waters or State owned lands that are the subject of this petition would be affected by the proposed scope of this project as the O154 is an existing line and the project will be accomplished within existing ROW easements.

11. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the State owned lands and public waters that are the subject of this petition. Minimum safe clearances above the State owned land and public waters will be maintained at all times. Spotters are routinely used to make sure river crossing spans are clear of recreational users prior to performing wire replacement work. As such, the use and enjoyment by the public of the State owned land will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the proposed structure replacements and wire installation.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the State owned lands which are the subject of this petition;

2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public water and State owned lands as identified and described in this petition;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 3rd day of December, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
By Its Attorney



Erik R. Newman, Senior Counsel, Legal
780 North Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
(603) 634-2459