

**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 A LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS PUBLIC WATERS IN LITCHFIELD AND
MERRIMACK, 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 public waters in Litchfield and Merrimack, 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 345 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource 380 Line, originally constructed in 1970, over and across public waters of the Merrimack River in Litchfield and Merrimack, New Hampshire. The Merrimack River crossing that is the subject of this petition was most recently licensed in Docket DE 10-322 under Order 25,190 which licensed the replacement of original wood structure 91 to a steel equivalent at the west side of the public water crossing span, with structure 90 remaining as the original wood structure. Structure 90 was later replaced in 2016 with a steel equivalent and was not licensed likely owing to oversight but will be fully licensed pursuant to this petition. The location of the public water crossing which is the subject of this petition is depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and a more detailed location description is as follows:

Exhibit 2 – The 380 Line crosses the Merrimack River in the Town of Litchfield and Merrimack between Structure 90 and 91. The waterbody crossing is located approximately 1,950 feet east from where the line crosses Charles Bancroft Highway in Litchfield, which is approximately 350 feet north from the intersection of Charles Bancroft Highway and Cummings Road. The crossing extends approximately 562 feet west to the west bank of the Merrimack River where it then terminates at the Eagle Substation located between the west bank of the Merrimack River and Pan Am railroad, and which termination point is approximately 325 feet west of where the crossing occurs. The Eagle Substation is located at the end of Star Drive which is off Daniel Webster Highway and on the east side of the Pan Am rail road tracks in Merrimack.

2. As part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource determined that wood structure 90 at the east side of the Merrimack River crossing span required replacement to continue to function safely and reliably and was replaced in 2016 with a weathering steel equivalent. The current 380 Line maintenance scope also includes the replacement of one existing pole-top shield wire with OPGW communication wire having the specifications and configuration shown on the Cable Schedules and Structure Details, respectively, on Exhibit 2 hereto. The three existing conductors and the existing OPGW communication wire between Structures 90 and 91 shall remain unchanged.

3. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this petition are as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibit 2.

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

(a) Public Water Body Crossing: Merrimack River – Litchfield/Merrimack
(Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 90 to 91
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 985.6
- iii. Public Water Span (ft): 562.5

5. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water body crossing.

6. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1) which is

34.8' for 345 kV conductor over water areas suitable for sail boating, including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams, and canals with an unobstructed surface area of over 20 to 200 acres. The actual minimum height over the public water body is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

7. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wetland statutory permit by notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the wire replacement and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. A NHDES Utility Maintenance Notification (UMN) was obtained in 2016 (NHDES #2016-00059) to account for temporary wetland impacts associated with transmission maintenance work in the Town of Litchfield in conjunction with the replacement of Structure 90.

8. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does regulate the subject portion of the Merrimack River as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this petition at that crossing location is covered through the Self-Verification process under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4, provided that there will be no decrease in existing clearances, which is the case with the scope petitioned herein.

9. The structure replacement work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners affected by the project scope.

10. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the public in the public water because safe clearances to water body will be maintained at all times.

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 public water which is the subject of this petition;

2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public water body described in this petition;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 12th day of November, 2021.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik", is positioned above the typed name of the attorney.

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