

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY

LICENSE NO. CR 2021-019

January 18, 2022

License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines

Over and Across State Owned Land in Keene, Swanzey and Winchester

and Public Waters in Keene and Swanzey

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its A152 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Keene, Swanzey and Winchester and public waters in Keene and Swanzey. The A152 Line was not previously licensed.

I. BACKGROUND

On November 12, 2021, Eversource filed a petition with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to construct and maintain its A152 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land in Keene, Swanzey and Winchester and public waters in Keene and Swanzey. On December 2, 2021, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the petition be approved and a license granted, based on the petition filings, applicable

statutes, rules, NESC requirements, and land ownership, as well as public need, safety, and impact. The petition and subsequent docket filings are posted to the Department's website (energy.nh.gov) at [Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters | NH Department of Energy](#).

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Locations and Construction

This license pertains to Eversource's A152 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State owned land in Keene, Swanzey and Winchester, and public waters of Keene and Swanzey. The A152 Line crosses public waters of the Ashuelot River in Keene between Structures 2 and 3; the Ashuelot Rail Trail, owned by the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), between Structures 7 and 8 in Keene; a portion of the Ashuelot Rail Trail on the eastern side of the Ashuelot River between structures 8 and 21 in Keene; across the Ashuelot River at the confluence of the Ashuelot River and Ash Swamp Brook between Structures 22 and 23 in the Town of Swanzey; and across the Ashuelot Rail Trail again in Swanzey between Structures 27 and 29 (with Structure 28 to be permanently removed). The A152 Line continues south over State land owned by NHDOT to cross the Ashuelot River again in Swanzey between Structures 47 and 48 and again between Structures 54 and 55. The Line continues across the Ashuelot Rail Trail between Structures 66 and 67 and between Structures 71 and 76 in Swanzey. Finally, the A152 Line crosses State land that comprises part of Pisgah State Park, owned by the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), between Structures 204 through 209 in Winchester. Three existing transmission conductors, one static wire, and one optical ground wire (OPGW) cable will be (or have been) transferred to the replacement structures.

B. Regulatory Requirements

Eversource is responsible for obtaining any and all other federal, state, or local permits required by authorities having jurisdiction for the construction and installation of the proposed crossing. According to the petition, Eversource has obtained a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) Wetland Permit in 2008 (2008-00219) with respect to wetland impacts associated with the replacement of Structures 1 through 72 for which an after-the-fact license is sought for this project. A NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) and a NHDES SPN will be obtained prior to the commencement of construction.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, the structure replacement work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements, thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners affected by the proposed project.

D. Service to the Public and the Effect on Public Rights

According to the petition, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the State land parcels in Keene, Swanzey and Winchester, or the public waters of Keene and Swanzey.

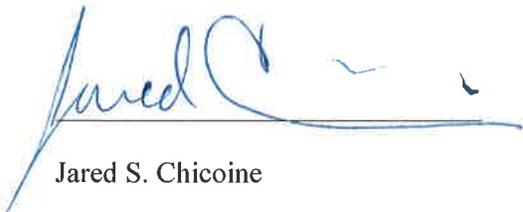
The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using a 100-year flood level, which is a more conservative analysis than the NESC 10-year flood clearance requirement.

III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across State land in Keene, Swanzey and Winchester and the public waters of Keene and Swanzey, as described in its petition and depicted in its filings and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. Based on the factual representations set forth in the petition and the recommendation, the Department finds that the requested crossing amendments are necessary to meet the reasonable requirements of reliable service to the public, as required by RSA 371:17, and that the requested license may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the subject land and public waters at the crossing locations in Keene, Swanzey and Winchester, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the petition is approved.

We require a copy of this license to be provided to the Town Clerks of Swanzey and Winchester and the City Clerk of Keene by first class mail no later than January 21, 2022, with a signed affidavit of compliance filed with the Department no later than 10 days following the issuance of the license.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 18th day of January, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared S. Chicoine", is written over a horizontal line.

Jared S. Chicoine

Commissioner