

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

LICENSE NO. CR 2021-025

January 31, 2022

**License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across State Owned Land and Public Waters in New Hampton,
Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to modify and maintain its E115 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across State land and public waters in New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland, New Hampshire. Although the subject crossings were not licensed when originally constructed, two of the water crossings (Strs. 3 and 4 and Strs. 47 and 48) were licensed in Dockets DE 75-173 and DE 76-22, respectively.

I. BACKGROUND

On December 21, 2021, Eversource filed a petition with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to modify, reconstruct and maintain its E115 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land and public waters in New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland. On January 10, 2022, 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 E115 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State owned land and public waters in New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland, New Hampshire. Eversource seeks a license for the E115 line and E115 Tap, encompassing a full line rebuild. All 14 structures at the State-owned land crossing span will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents. The project also includes replacing all 12 structures at the six public waters crossing spans that are the subject of this petition with weathering steel equivalents. The proposed project also encompasses reconductoring the three existing conductors. Additionally, both pole top mounted shield wires will be replaced with two OPGW communication cables. All structure replacements will be located within 10 feet of the existing locations, with the exception of new Structures 3 and 119, which are being moved approximately 15 feet south, and 30 south, respectively, to avoid steep slopes for constructability and future maintenance.

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 will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) for this project. This and any other necessary permits are to be acquired prior to commencing construction.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the public waters and State-owned lands that are the subject of this petition will not be affected by the proposed project, because the crossing structures are being replaced and rebuilt within existing ROW easements.

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 and public waters of New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater and Ashland.

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 New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater and Ashland, 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 New Hampton,

Bristol, Bridgewater and Ashland, 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 New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater and Ashland by first class mail no later than February 3, 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 31st day of January, 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner