

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CR 2021-024

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

**Petition for License and License Amendments
to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across
State Owned Land and Public Waters in Stark, New Hampshire**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On December 3, 2021, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource, or the Company) filed a petition for a license to construct and maintain an existing overhead 115 kV electric transmission (the O154 Line) over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Stark, and over and across public waters in Stark. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Department, will be posted to the Department's website

(www.energy.nh.gov) at [Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters /NH Department of Energy](#).

Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource O154 Line. The O154 Line was originally constructed in 1946 and has never been previously licensed. In its current petition, Eversource proposes to: (1) replace all eleven structures at the State owned land crossing span will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents (2) replacement and renumbering of the two

structures supporting one public water crossing span (3) reconditioning the three existing conductors with new specifications (4) replacement of two pole top mounted shield wires with two OPGW communication cables.

The O154 Line crosses public waters of the Ammonoosuc River in Stark spanning 642.6 feet between Structures #37 and #38 with 143.4 feet spanning public waters. The land crossing in Stark spans 2,158.8 feet between Structures #55 and #59 with 1,799.5 feet spanning State owned land. The land crossing in Stark spans 4,509.2 feet between Structures #73 and #83 with 4,149.2 feet spanning State owned land.

According to the petition, Eversource asserts the existing crossings will be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the identified State land and public waters in Stark, as the O154 is an existing line and the project will be accomplished within existing ROW easements. Eversource asserts that environmental impacts will require permits from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the Company will obtain these prior to the commencement of construction. The Company will obtain authorization or exemption under the National Environmental Policy Act for those portions of the O154 line rebuild located within White Mountain National Forest prior to construction.

The U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of the Ammonoosuc River as navigable waters.

The Department will review the filing to assess the necessity of the requested license to meet the reasonable requirements of reliable service to the public, as required by RSA 371:17, and whether the license may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the identified State land and public waters in Stark, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. The

applicant and any interested party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that, the Department will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, on February 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., at which any interested party may provide its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any interested party who wishes to participate in the proceeding shall file a written petition to intervene stating the interested party's basis for intervention consistent with RSA 541-A:32 and Puc 203.17 and specifying any objection the party has to the proposed crossings license. Petitions to Intervene shall be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department, with copies sent to the Petitioner that is seeking a license, no later than January 31, 2022. Failure to submit a Petition to Intervene at least three business days prior to the Prehearing Conference will constitute a waiver of the right to object to the Petition and the requested license; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, Eversource, Department staff, and any intervening parties may hold a technical session to review the petition, as needed; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all abutters to the proposed crossings by causing a copy of this order of notice to be sent, by any major delivery service that provides delivery confirmation, to the owners of all properties immediately adjacent and contiguous to the State land parcels that are subject to the

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proposed crossings. On or before January 31, 2022, Eversource shall file with the Department a list of all abutters so notified and copies of the return delivery confirmations. In addition, Eversource shall mail a copy of this order of notice to: (i) the Town Clerk of Stark, New Hampshire; (ii) the New Hampshire Attorney General; (iii) the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; (iv) the New Hampshire Department of Transportation; and (v) the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and publish a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than one business day after the date of issue.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Department of Energy, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-3670; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made no later than one week prior to the scheduled event. **Queries regarding this petition and associated docket filings may be submitted to Crossings@energy.nh.gov.**