

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CR 2021-025

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

**Petition for 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**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On December 21, 2021, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition for a license to construct and maintain its 115 kV electric transmission line (the E115 Line) over and across State land and public waters in New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland New Hampshire. 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's E115 Line and E115 Tap, originally constructed in 1953 and 1964, respectively, over and across State owned land and public waters in New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland, New Hampshire. The subject crossings were not licensed when originally constructed, but two of the public water crossings, over the Pemigewasset River between new Strs. 3 and 4, and over the Pemigewasset River between new Strs. 47 and 48 were licensed in Dockets DE 75-173 and DE 76-22, respectively (copies of those Dockets including Orders are included with this Petition filing), in conjunction with prior maintenance.

Eversource seeks a license for the E115 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.

According to the petition, Eversource asserts that 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 New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland. 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. The Company will obtain environmental permits necessary will be obtained prior to commencing work.

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

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 New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland, 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

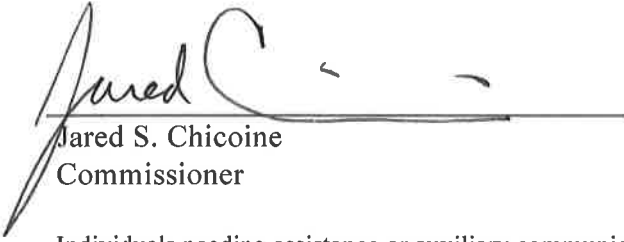
ORDERED, that, the Department will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, on February 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., at which any interested party may provide its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15; and it is

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 crossing 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 26, 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 and water parcels that are subject to the proposed crossings. On or before January 20, 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 Clerks of New Hampton, Bristol, Bridgewater, and Ashland, New Hampshire; (ii) the New Hampshire

Attorney General; (iii) the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; and (iv) the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, 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 e