

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CR 2021-024

February 3, 2022

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

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to modify and maintain its O154 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters in Stark. The O154 Line was not previously licensed.

I. BACKGROUND

On December 3, 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 O154 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land and public waters in Stark. On December 21, 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 O154 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters in Stark. The proposed project for the O154 Line encompasses replacing all 11 structures with weathering steel equivalents. The replacements will be renumbered. The project also includes replacement and renumbering of two structures supporting one public water crossing span. Additionally, three existing conductors will be reconducted with specifications, and both pole top 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 Structure 78 and 80, which are being moved approximately 30 feet west to minimize impacts to wetlands for this project 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 for this project. It is unclear if a Shoreland Permit by Notification or Alteration of Terrain Permit will be required, but all environmental permits will be obtained prior to construction. The line rebuild portion located within the White Mountain National Forest will necessitate authorization or exemption under the National Environmental Policy Act prior to commencing construction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the Upper Ammonoosuc River as navigable waters. Therefore, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the State-owned land and public waters in this

subject project will not be affected by the proposed project, because the O154 Line is an existing line and the project will be accomplished 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 parcel and the public waters of Stark.

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 these State land parcels and the public waters in Stark, 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 Stark, 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 Clerk of Stark by first

class mail no later than February 8, 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 3rd day of February, 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner