

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CRE 2022-004

**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 Bow, Concord and Pembroke**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On February 15, 2022, 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 115 kV electric transmission line (the P145 Line) over and across land and public waters owned by the State of New Hampshire in Bow, Concord and Pembroke. 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.

The P145 Line was originally constructed circa 1966. The crossing over the Merrimack River between new Structures 38 and 39 (old Structures 40 and 41) was licensed in Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket DE 76-22 pursuant to Order No. 12,219. The crossing over Turtle Town Pond between new Structures 125 to 129 (old Structures 131 to 135) was licensed in PUC Docket DE 94-272 pursuant to Order No. 21,817.

In its current petition, Eversource proposes to: (1) replace eight structures with weathering steel equivalents; (2) replace and renumber 11 structures supporting the four public

water crossing spans; (3) reconductor the three existing conductors with three new conductors; (4) replace both existing pole top mounted shield wires with two optical ground wire (OPGW) communication cables; and (5) license after-the-fact the crossing over State-owned land in Pembroke and two spans across the Soucook River. Structures 38, 39, 48, 49, 65 to 71, 125, 126 and 128 will be located within 10 feet of their current locations; new and renumbered Structure 63 will be moved 250 feet north of its current location; Structure 64 will be moved approximately 20 feet south to account for the permanent removal of existing Structures 65 and 67 from State-owned land; new and renumbered Structure 72 is being moved 20 feet north to move away from steep slopes; new and renumbered Structure 127 is being moved 20 feet north to minimize impacts to adjacent wetlands during construction and future maintenance; and new and renumbered Structure 29 is being moved 20 feet south to avoid potential impacts to nearby sensitive environmental resources during construction and future maintenance. Certain changes in structure heights are required to meet current safety and reliability clearance requirements for cables and new structure locations.

The P145 Line crosses public waters of the Merrimack River in Bow and Concord between new Structures 38 and 39, crosses the Soucook River in Pembroke and Concord between new Structures 48 and 49 and again in Pembroke between new Structures 71 and 72 and crosses Turtle Town Pond in Concord between new structures 125 and 129. The P145 Line crosses a State-owned land parcel associated with the New Hampshire National Guard Facility in Pembroke between new Structures 63 and 72. Specific locations of the crossing structures are further detailed in the docket filings and illustrated in petition attachments.

According to the petition, the structure replacement work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements, thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners

affected by the project. Eversource will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit Notification (SPN) for temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the construction and installation of new of structures. A NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be obtained for the work planned under this petition in relation to temporary impacts to wetlands, and the shoreland buffer to the Merrimack River, the Soucook River and Turtle Town Pond prior to the commencement of construction.

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 Concord, Bow and Pembroke 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

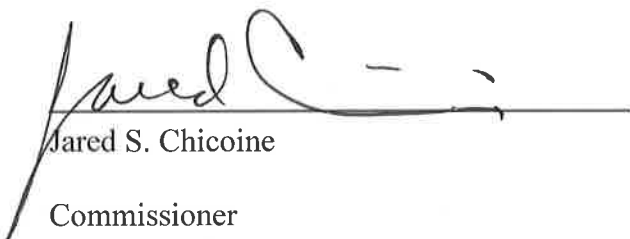
ORDERED, that, the Department will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, on March 29, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., at which any interested party may provide its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15; and it is

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 March 24, 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 proposed crossings. On or before March 24, 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 City Clerk of Concord and the Town Clerks of Bow and Pembroke, 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.**