

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**CR 2021-006**

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

**Petition for License  
to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines  
Over and Across State Land in Merrimack and Bedford**

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

On October 15, 2021<sup>1</sup>, 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 V191 Line) over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Merrimack and Bedford. 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](http://www.energy.nh.gov)) at Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters /NH Department of Energy.

The V191 Line was originally constructed in 2005 over State land in Merrimack. In conjunction with the construction of the V191 Line, a 34.5 kV distribution line designated as the Eversource 323 Line was underbuilt along the V191 Line. Both lines were built on a shared combination of laminated wood monopole and steel monopole structures. Eversource

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<sup>1</sup> Eversource filed an initial petition on July 28, 2021; resubmitted corrected exhibits on September 20, 2021 and resubmitted its petition with exhibits on October 15, 2021, as a result of errors identified by Safety Bureau staff at the Department.

proposes to replace those structures with weathering steel monopole equivalents. The V191 Line crosses three consecutive State land parcels owned by the NH Department of Transportation in Merrimack and Bedford between Structures 11 and 18. The existing crossing span was not licensed when it was constructed, due to the Company's oversight. The crossing over NHDOT property starts from where the line crosses over Raymond Wiczorek Drive, just west of where that road crosses the Merrimack River, and extends approximately 2,100 feet south to the property boundary between Map 7E, Lot 1 and Map 7E, Lot 42 in Merrimack.

Eversource seeks a license to replace Structures 11 through 16 with weathering steel monopole equivalents as part of the Company's ongoing asset condition inspection program. The V191 Line's three existing conductors and one optical ground wire (OPGW) will be transferred to the new replacement structures along with the 323 Line's existing three conductors and one neutral wire. Eversource will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services wetland statutory permit by notification for temporary impacts to wetlands in both Merrimack and Bedford, and a Shoreland Permit by Notification for temporary impacts within the shoreland buffer to the Merrimack River in both Merrimack and Bedford prior to 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 parcels in Merrimack and Bedford, 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**

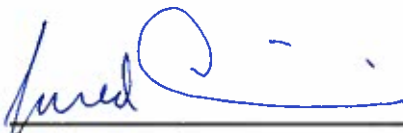
**ORDERED**, that, the Department will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, on December 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., at which any interested party may provide its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15; and it is

**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 December 23, 2021. 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 December 23, 2021, 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 Merrimack and Bedford, 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.



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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.