

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

DOCKET No. DE 21-_____

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE
ENERGY FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ELECTRIC
LINES OVER AND ACROSS LAKE WINNISQUAM IN BELMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “the Company”), a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire, hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), for a license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across certain public waters in Belmont, New Hampshire. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the requirements for reasonable service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource J125 Line, originally constructed in 1974, over and across the public waters comprising a portion of Lake Winnisquam in Belmont, New Hampshire. The original construction of the J125 Line was licensed under Order # 11,949 in Docket DE 75-149 (copy enclosed). For reasons unknown a license amendment was not obtained when the subject crossing span was reconstructed in 2002 with original Structures (now known as) 100 and 102 replaced and a mid-span Structure 101 added. The location of the public water crossing which is the subject of this petition is depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and more detailed location description is as follows:

The J125 crosses Lake Winnisquam between Structures 100 and 102 in the Town of Belmont. The crossing occurs over a portion of the public waterbody known as Ephrams Bay, which is located at the southeast end of the lake. The crossing location occurs approximately 2,500 feet northeast from where the line crosses over Grey Rocks Rd, which is at the intersection of Grey Rocks Road and Dorway Drive. The crossing extends northeast over Lake Winnisquam (Ephrams Bay) for an additional 1,149 feet.

2. Through Eversource's ongoing program of field inspection, Eversource has determined that laminated wood Structures 100 and 102 require replacement to continue to function safely and reliability. Structure 101, which is located mid-span on a peninsula in Ephrams Bay, will be eliminated entirely which provides a public benefit insofar as the attendant temporary impacts to wetlands on that peninsula are avoided. The three existing conductors, one existing static wire and one existing OPGW wire will be transferred to new replacement Structures 100 and 102 and shall otherwise remain unchanged. With the removal of Structure 101, the wires will be re-tensioned to the design shown in Exhibit 2.

3. The design of replacement Structures 100 and 102 are in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawing, attached as Exhibit 2. Both replacement structures will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents and installed within 5 feet of the current laminated wood structures.

4. Wire specifications for the Lake Winnisquam crossing span are depicted and noted on the Exhibit 2 Structure Detail and Plan View.

5. This petition addresses the following crossing spans:

- a. Lake Winnisquam: Belmont (Exhibit 2)
 - i. Structures: 100 to 102
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1149.4
 - iii. Public Waters Span: 939.9

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water body span, as noted.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the crossing over Lake Winnisquam at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1), which requires at least 18.6 feet for 115 kV open supply conductors over water not suitable for sail boating or where sail boating is prohibited. This portion of Lake Winnisquam has restricted navigability for sailboats due to a low and narrow bridge crossing associated with the railroad that is located west of the J125 line and lacks an appropriate boat launch.

8. The clearance over the 100 year flood level as depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 exceeds that minimum requirement. Flood level elevations were derived as stated in Note 3 on Exhibit 2.

9. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) for temporary impacts to wetlands and Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) for temporary impacts within the shoreland buffer associated with the permanent removal of Structure 101 and temporary ground disturbance associated with the Structures 100 and 102 replacements. Both permits will be obtained prior to conducting the work

10. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of Lake Winnisquam as navigable waters.

11. It is not anticipated that abutters on either side of the Lake Winnisquam crossing would be affected by the proposed structure replacements, as the J125 Line is an existing line and the work will be performed outside the limits of the public waters is within Eversource's existing utility easements as noted on Exhibit 2.

12. Eversource submits that the license amendments petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of Lake Winnisquam. Minimum safe clearances above the public waters shall be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment by the public of Lake Winnisquam will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the described structure replacements and removal.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the amended license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters that are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource amended licenses to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters as identified and described in this petition; and
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for their publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 6th day of May, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
By Its Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik", is centered at the top of the page.

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