

**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 AND LICENSE AMENDMENT TO
CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS STATE
OWNED LAND IN HILL AND PUBLIC WATERS IN HILL AND NEW HAMPTON,
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 new license and license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across State owned land in Hill and public waters in Hill and New Hampton, 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 A111 Line, originally constructed in the early 1950’s, over and across State owned land in Hill and public waters of the Pemigewasset River in the towns of Hill and New Hampton New Hampshire. The public water crossing was most recently licensed in Docket DE 20-042 under Order 26,423 which licensed replacement of original wood structure 79, renumbered as replacement steel structure 81 at the west side of the public water crossing span. The State owned lands were not previously licensed either because the land was not owned by the State at the time of original construction or otherwise for reasons unknown.

2. The proposed project for the A111 encompasses a full line rebuild. Nine original wood structures located upon the State owned land will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents.

The replacement structures will be renumbered, as detailed under the Structure Table enclosed herewith as Exhibit 10. The project also includes replacement and renumbering (original #81, replacement #82) of the structure on the east side of the public water crossing span. The proposed project also encompasses reconductoring the three existing conductors, as detailed under the Cable Schedule on Exhibits 2 through 8 hereto. Additionally, both pole top mounted shield wires will be replaced with two OPGW communication cables as specified in the said Cable Schedules. All replacement structures will be installed within 10 feet of the existing structures, except for existing Structure 81 (replacement Structure 82) which will be relocated approximately 45 feet northeasterly along the existing alignment of the A111 to avoid the steep slopes on that easterly bank of the Pemigewasset. That relocation minimizes environmental impacts associated with installation and future maintenance of the replacement structure. Also detailed in Exhibit 10 are proposed changes in structure heights required to meet current safety and reliability clearance requirements for the replacement cables and new structure locations and also to address uplift considerations specific to the surrounding terrain.

3. The public water crossing and State owned land crossing spans that are subject of this petition are depicted on Exhibit 1 as a high-level perspective of the locations. Additional site location descriptions of the span locations are as follows.

Exhibits 2 through 7 – The A111 Line crosses State of New Hampshire’s William H. Thomas Sate Forest properties in the town of Hill between the replacement structures 70 and 80. The southern end of the state property crossing is located approximately 1,700 feet northwest from where the line crosses Old Town Road in Hill, which is approximately 200 feet west from the intersection of Old Town Road and Park Street in Hill. The state land crossing spans an additional 3,692.2 feet northwest to the state land boundary near where the A111 line crosses the Pemigewasset River.

Exhibits 8 and 9 – The A111 Line crosses the Pemigewasset River in the towns of Hill and New Hampton between replacement structures 81 and 82. The line crosses the Pemigewasset River approximately 5,800 feet northwest and an additional 1,150 feet northeast along the alignment of the line from where the line crosses Old Town Road in Hill, which is approximately 200 feet west from the intersection of Old Town Road and Park Street in Hill. The line spans the Pemigewasset River 1,844.8 feet northeast from replacement structure 81 to structure 82.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing spans that are the subject of this petition are as indicated on the Structure Detail and Profile Views of Exhibits 2 through 9.

5. The location of structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing span:

I. State Owned Land: Hill (Exhibits 2 to 7)

i. Renumbered Structures: Str. 70 to 80

ii. Structure Span (ft): 4,487.0

iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 3,692.3

II. Pemigewasset River: Hill and New Hampton (Exhibits 8 and 9)

i. Renumbered Structures: 81 to 82

ii. Structure Span (ft): 1844.8'

iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 343.1'

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibits 2 through 8 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the State owned land and public water crossings.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossing at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1), which is 20.1' for other areas traversed by vehicles, such as cultivated, grazing, forest and orchard lands, industrial sites, commercial sites, etc., and is 18.6' for 115 kV over water areas not suitable for sail boating in respect to the public water crossing span. The actual minimum height over the State owned land and public waters is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 through 8 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

8. A 100-year flood elevation level was established based upon consultation of FEMA flood hazard layer firmette with a date of January 16, 2020.

9. The line rebuild project on the A111 will require a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Standard Dredge and Fill wetland permit for temporary and permanent impacts to wetlands associated with the construction and installation of new poles, including those that are the subject of this petition in Hill. Also, a Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) is needed for temporary impacts within the shoreland buffer of the Pemigewasset River in Hill associated with access to the ROW. Said SPN and PBN will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. No other environmental permitting is required in respect to these crossing spans.

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

11. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the public water crossing span or adjacent to the State owned lands that are the subject of this petition would be affected by the proposed scope of this project as the A111 is an existing line and the project will be accomplished within existing ROW easements.

12. Eversource submits that the license and license amendment petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the State owned lands and public waters. Minimum safe clearances above the State owned land and public water surface will be maintained at all times. As such, the use and enjoyment by the public of the State owned land and public waters will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the proposed structure replacements and wire installation.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license and license amendment petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the State owned lands and public waters which are the subject of this petition;

2. Grant Eversource a license and license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the State owned land and public waters as identified and described in this petition;
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 2nd day of June, 2021.

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



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