

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CR 2021-019

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

**Petition for License and License Amendments
to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across
State Owned Land in Keene, Swanzey, and Winchester
and Public Waters in Keene and Swanzey**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On November 12, 2021,¹ 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 A152 Line) over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Keene, Swanzey, and Winchester, and over and across public waters in Keene and Swanzey. 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 A152 Line was originally constructed in 1968 and has undergone two prior structure replacement projects: the first, in 2008 in Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket DE 008-102 and again in 2019 in PUC Docket DE 19-157. In its current petition, Eversource proposes

¹ Eversource filed an initial petition with attachments on November 4, 2021 and resubmitted a corrected petition with revised exhibits on November 12, 2021, as a result of errors identified by Department Safety Bureau staff.

to: (1) replace laminated wood structures 1 through 72, which were installed in 2008, with new steel structures; (2) license the addition of a new stub pole, Structure 72A, to add support to an existing ADSS wire between Structures 72 and 73; (3) license the planned replacement of original wood structures 204, 205, 206, 207, 208 and 209 with steel structures over State land in Winchester; and (4) license after-the-fact the 2014 replacement of original wood Structure 73 with a wood equivalent that will remain unchanged under the current petition. All replacement structures will be located within 10 feet of their current locations, except that Structure 27 will be repositioned 250 feet south of its current location to allow for the permanent removal of Structure 28 from a wetland.

The A152 Line crosses public waters of the Ashuelot River in Keene between Structures 2 and 3; the Ashuelot Rail Trail, owned by the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), between Structures 7 and 8 in Keene; a portion of the Ashuelot Rail Trail on the eastern side of the Ashuelot River between structures 8 and 21 in Keene; across the Ashuelot River at the confluence of the Ashuelot River and Ash Swamp Brook between Structures 22 and 23 in the Town of Swanzey; and across the Ashuelot Rail Trail again in Swanzey between Structures 27 and 29 (with Structure 28 to be permanently removed). The A152 Line continues south over State land owned by NHDOT to cross the Ashuelot River again in Swanzey between Structures 47 and 48 and again between Structures 54 and 55. The Line continues across the Ashuelot Rail Trail between Structures 66 and 67 and between Structures 71 and 76 in Swanzey. Finally, the A152 Line crosses State land that comprises part of Pisgah State Park, owned by the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), between Structures 204 through 209 in Winchester. Specific locations of the crossing structures are further detailed in

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the docket filings and illustrated in petition attachments. Three existing transmission conductors, one static wire, and one optical ground wire (OPGW) cable will be (or have been) transferred to the replacement structures.

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 obtained a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Standard Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit in 2008 with respect to wetland impacts associated with the replacement of structures 1 through 72 for which an after-the-fact license is sought in the current petition. 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 and will be secured 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 lands in Keene, Swanzey, and Winchester, and public waters in Keene and Swanzey, 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 January 5, 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 December 30, 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 30, 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 City Clerk of Keene and the Town Clerks of Swanzey and Winchester, 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

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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.**