

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CR 2021-020

**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 Portsmouth**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On November 17, 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 345 kV electric transmission line (the 3135 Line) over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Portsmouth. 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.

According to the petition, the 3135 Line was originally constructed in 1978, but was not licensed at that time. The line crosses property owned by New Hampshire Fish and Game known as the Great Bog Wildlife Management Area between Structures 101 and 108. The crossing begins approximately 4,800 feet northeast of where the 3135 Line crosses Ocean Road and extends approximately 4,511 feet northeast to Greenland Road (NH State

¹ Eversource filed an initial petition on November 12, 2021 and resubmitted corrected exhibits on November 17, 2021, as a result of inaccuracies identified by Safety Bureau staff at the Department.

Route 33), approximately 500 feet west of the intersection of Greenland Road and Dodge Avenue.

The 3135 Line was constructed with steel structures, but as part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource has determined that original steel structures 105 and 106 at the State land crossing span need to be replaced to continue to function safely and reliably. Structures 102, 103, 104 and 107, also located on State land at the subject span do not require replacement. Structures 105 and 106 will be replaced with steel equivalents and relocated approximately 15 feet south of the original structure locations to provide adequate workspace to accomplish the replacements. Three existing conductors, one static wire, and one OPGW communications wire will be transferred to the new structures. According to the petition, a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wetland statutory permit by notification (SPN) is required for temporary impacts associated with the structure replacements and will be obtained 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 in Portsmouth, 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 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 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 subject crossing by causing a copy of this order of notice to be sent, by a major delivery service that provides delivery confirmation, to the owners of all properties immediately adjacent and contiguous to the State land that is subject to the crossing. 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 Portsmouth; (ii) the New Hampshire Attorney General; (iii) New Hampshire Fish and Game; and (iv) the

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 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.**