

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

DOCKET No. CR 21-05

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS STATE OWNED LAND IN PLYMOUTH
AND A LICENSE AMENDMENT TO MAINTAIN ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND
ACROSS PUBLIC WATERS IN PLYMOUTH AND HOLDERNESS, 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 Department of Energy (“Department”), for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across State owned in Plymouth and for a license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters in Plymouth and Holderness, 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 34.5 kV electrical distribution line, designated as the Eversource 3196 Line. The original constructed date of the 3196 Line is unknown, but predated 1976 when the public water crossing span that is part of this petition was licensed pursuant to Order 12-219, a copy of the relevant portions of that bulk licensing Order are included herewith for convenience of reference. The State owned land crossing that is the subject of this petition was not previously licensed, either because it was not under State ownership at the time of construction or owing to an oversight.

2. As part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource previously determined that original steel lattice structures on the 3196 Line, including Structures 99, 100 and

101 at the two subject crossing spans need to be replaced to continue to function safely and reliably. Structure 101 required immediate replacement owing to foundation rot and overall deterioration that was accomplished in 2020. Structure 101 was replaced with direct embedded weathering steel single pole, and the same will be done with Structures 99 and 100. The change from the original lattice design results in modest increases to structure heights: Str. 99 increase of 6.5'; Str. 100 increase of 6.5'; and Str. 101 increase of 11.5'. Replacement structures 99 and 100 will be located within 10' of the original structure location as was the case with prior replacement of Structure 101. The 3196's existing three conductors, whose specifications are identified on the Exhibit 2 Cable Schedule, will be unchanged in the course of relocation to the new steel structures.

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

Exhibit 2 –The 3196 Line crosses a State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (“DOT”) active railroad in Plymouth between structures 99 and 100 and one adjacent public waterbody, the Pemigewassett River, in Plymouth and Holderness between structure 100 and 101. The line crosses the DOT property approximately 335 feet northeast from where the line crosses State Route 3/25, aka Daniel Webster Highway, in Plymouth, which is approximately 700 feet southeast from the intersection of Parker Street and State Route 3/25.

The 3196 Line continues northeast approximately 473.3 feet from the aforementioned State owned land span to the western edge of the Pemigewassett River, where it extends an additional 349.5' to the eastern edge, which is located approximately 2,500' south from the Plymouth State University Ice Arena.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this petition are as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibit 2.

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

- (a) State Owned Land: Plymouth Map 220, Lot 5 (Exhibit 2)
 - i. Structures: 99 to 100
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 550.7
 - iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 88.6
- (b) Public Water: Pemigewasset River, Plymouth and Holderness (Exhibit 2)
 - i. Structures: 100 to 101
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 572.2
 - iii. Public Water Span (ft): 349.5

6. Conductors have been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the State owned land and Public Waters crossings.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1) which is 26.5' for 34.5 kV wires over a railroad measured to the track rails in relation to the crossing span between Structures 99 to 100, and which is 17.0' for 34.5 kV wires over waters not suitable for sailboating or where sailboating is prohibited, with surface area over 200 acres. The actual minimum height over the State owned lands and Public Waters is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 and exceeds the respective minimum requirements.

8. Owing to the nominal grading where the 3196 Line crosses the Pemigewasset River, there was no protected shoreland disturbance occasioned by the 2020 replacement of Str. 101 or that will arise from the replacement of Str. 100 and therefore a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Shoreland Permit By Notification (PBN) is not required for that work. Also, there will be no temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the Str. 99 replacement and therefore no wetland statutory permit by notification (SPN) is required.

9. 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 scope. Spotters are routinely used to make sure the river is clear of recreational users prior to transferring the wires from the original structures to the replacement structures.

10. Eversource submits that the license and license amendment petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the public in the State owned land and Public Waters because safe clearances to ground will be maintained at all times.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Department:

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

2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the State owned lands and license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across Public Waters, as described in this petition;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 15th day of October, 2021.

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



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