

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Intra-Department Communication

**DATE:** September 16, 2021

**AT (OFFICE):** NH Dept. of Energy

**FROM:** Kenneth Walsh *KGW*  
Utility Analyst IV – Division of Enforcement

**SUBJECT:** Docket DE 21-125 Eversource Energy  
Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across  
State Owned Land in Manchester, New Hampshire  
Division of Enforcement, **Safety Bureau Recommendation**

**TO:** Jared Chicoine, Interim Commissioner, Department of Energy  
Christopher Ellms, Jr., Deputy Commissioner, Department of Energy

**CC:** Thomas Frantz, Director of Regulatory Division  
Richard Chagnon, Regulatory Division  
Lynn Fabrizio, Division of Enforcement  
Randall Knepper, Division of Enforcement  
Paul Kasper, Division of Enforcement

The Division of Enforcement's review of the above petition consisted of the following elements:

- Petition contents and history;
- Applicable State statute;
- Review of the existing crossing(s) previously licensed by the PUC;
- Review of land ownership of existing pole structures;
- Review of NESC code requirements as described in Puc 300;
- Review of public need and public impact, including applicability of other State regulations; and
- Conclusions and Recommendations.

### **1. Petition contents and history**

On June 22, 2021, Public Service New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource, or the Company) filed a petition for a license pursuant to RSA 371:17 to construct and maintain the Eversource M164 Line, which is an existing three phase 115kV transmission line with a 34.5 kV 321 distribution line underbuild that crosses State land comprising a former railroad bed owned by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in Manchester.

The existing crossings over State land was not previously licensed for unknown reasons, according to the petition.

This proposed project is to replace (2) wood structures with weathered steel structures. The (3) existing transmission conductors, (1) OPGW grounding and communications wire, (3) existing distribution conductors, and (1) neutral wire will be transferred to the replacement structures. Eversource will maintain NESC clearances between cables with the distribution neutral wire the lowest attachment.

Eversource Exhibit 2 depicts Structures #32 and #33 to be constructed of Type ST-2 UB, CL H9 weathered steel with both 47.0 ft. AGH. Existing M164 Line transmission conductors (3) ACSR 1272 45/7 kcmil conductors and one existing fiber OPGW will be transferred. Existing 321 Line distribution conductors (3) ACSR 477 26/7 kcmil conductors and (1) neutral 4/0 AWG will also be transferred with the neutral conductor being vertically attached below the conductors. The conductor cable clearance requirements were met using applicable National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) conditions for the crossing addressed in this petition. Those conditions yielded the greatest sag and lowest clearance for the noted conductors and temperatures in accordance with Eversource's design. Only 23.5 feet clearance of the lowest wire (the neutral) over the railbed is required under NESC Table 232-1.

The scope of this project begins in Manchester immediately south of the Sports Mill Building and the Team Nissan parking lot, with the former rail corridor running north-south west of the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. Both M164 and 321 Lines run east-west.

The land crossing spans 208.3 feet between Structures #32 and #33, with 98.9 feet spanning State land. See Attached Map.

The Safety Bureau reviewed documentation requested from Eversource regarding potential height impacts on surrounding air traffic approaches to the airport. Eversource provided Safety Bureau Staff with FAA Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation Letters dated May 17, 2021.

**2. New Hampshire statute referenced in petition (as modified by N.H. House Bill 2 on June 3, 2021)**

371:17 Licenses for New Poles (2021, 91:260, eff. July 1, 2021)

**3. Review of existing license(s) and permissions previously granted by the PUC for these locations of the State owned land in Manchester.**

The State owned land crossing span in Manchester was not previously licensed. Eversource asserts that environmental impacts from the broader scope of this project beyond the State-owned land crossing that will require permits from the NH Department of Environmental Services and that the Company will obtain these before commencing work.

**4. Review of land ownership of proposed pole structures**

In its petition, Eversource specifies that the structures and wires to be replaced pursuant to this petition cross State owned land in Manchester, New Hampshire.

## **5. Review of NESC code requirements as described in Puc 300**

The Safety Bureau reviewed the specifications related to the design and re-construction of this crossing project as described in the petition, attachments, and all supplemental support documents and corrections filed by the Company, and found them to be in conformance with N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 306 and applicable sections of NESC C2-2012.

## **6. Review of public need and public impact**

The M164 transmission line is an integral part of Eversource's existing electric transmission system in New Hampshire. The crossing locations identified in the petition are in Manchester, as indicated by the docket filings. The Company asserts in its petition that the existing crossings will be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the identified State land located in Manchester.

The Safety Bureau verified that minimum safe line clearances above the land will be maintained at all times, and determined that public use and enjoyment of the State owned land will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the proposed overhead line crossings.

### **Safety Bureau Recommendation:**

Based on the results of its review of the petition, attachments, and all other supporting documents filed to this docket, the Safety Bureau recommends that the Department:

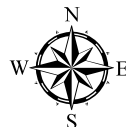
- 1) Find that the license Eversource requests in this docket may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in State owned land; and
- 2) Grant Eversource a license to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines and communication cables pursuant to RSA 371:17 and Puc 306.01, over and across State owned land in Manchester, New Hampshire, as specified in the petition;

Attachment

# State Land (NHDOT) - DE 21-125 EVERSOURCE Crossing



	Utility Pole		State Land Parcel
	115 kV Lines		Town Parcel
	34.5 kV Lines		



Prepared by:  
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