

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CR 2021-006

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

LICENSE NO. CR 2021-006

January 3, 2022

**License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across State Land in Merrimack and Bedford**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) pursuant to RSA 371:17 to construct and maintain its existing 115 kV electric transmission line (the V191 Line) and its parallel underbuilt 34.5 kV distribution line (the 323 Line) over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Merrimack and Bedford, New Hampshire.

I. BACKGROUND

On October 15, 2021,¹ Eversource filed a petition with the NH Department of Energy (Department) pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to reconstruct and maintain its existing V191 Line and underbuilt 323 Line in Merrimack and Bedford. The V191 and 323 Lines were originally constructed in 2005; the subject crossing was not previously licensed. On October 21, 2021, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the petition be approved and a license granted. The petition and subsequent docket filings are posted to the Department's website (energy.nh.gov) at [Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters | NH](#)

¹ Eversource submitted an initial petition to the Department of Energy on July 28, 2021; replacement filings were made on September 20, 2021 and on October 15, 2021 to correct errors identified by the Department's Enforcement Division.

Department of Energy.

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Locations and Construction

The V191 and 323 Lines extend over and across land owned by the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) between Structures 11 and 18 in Merrimack and Bedford. As part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource determined that the original laminated wood monopoles at the subject crossing span need to be replaced to ensure continued safe and reliable function. Those structures will be replaced with weathering steel monopole equivalents located within 10 feet of the original structure locations; Structure 14 will be relocated approximately 20 feet to the north to meet current clearance requirements. The V191 Line's existing three conductors and one OPGW wire, and the 323 Line's existing three conductors and one neutral wire, will be transferred to the new structures.

B. Regulatory Requirements

Eversource is responsible for obtaining any and all other federal, state, or local permits required by authorities having jurisdiction for the construction and installation of the proposed crossing. According to the petition, Eversource will obtain a wetland statutory permit by notification and a shoreland permit by notification from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) prior to commencing construction.

C. Property Rights

Eversource submitted that the line amendments will occur within existing right-of-way easements, thereby mitigating impacts to property owners affected by the project.

D. Service to the Public and Effect on Public Rights

Eversource affirmed that the crossing was designed to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, and that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the identified State land. The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across State land in Bedford and Merrimack, as described in its petition and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. Based on the factual representations set forth in the petition and the recommendation, the Department finds that the requested crossing amendments are necessary to meet the reasonable requirements of reliable service to the public, as required by RSA 371:17, and that the requested license may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the subject land at the crossing location in Bedford and Merrimack, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the petition is approved.

We require a copy of this license to be provided to the Town Clerks of Merrimack by first class mail no later than January 6, 2022, with a signed affidavit of compliance filed with the Department no later than 10 days following the issuance of this license.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 3rd day of
January, 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner