

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**CR 2021-013
(formerly PUC DE 21-094)**

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

LICENSE NO. CR 2021-013

October 21, 2021

**License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Lake Winnisquam in Belmont**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to reconstruct and maintain its J125 Line, an existing 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across Lake Winnisquam in Belmont.

I. BACKGROUND

On May 6, 2021,¹ Eversource filed a petition with the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to modify, reconstruct, and maintain a section of the J125 Line that extends over and across public waters in Belmont. On June 21, 2021, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the petition be approved and a license granted, based on the petition filings, applicable statutes, rules, NESC requirements, and land ownership, as well as public need, safety, and impact. The petition and subsequent docket filings are posted on the Department's website (energy.nh.gov) at [Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters | NH Department of Energy](#).

¹ The Company filed replacement attachments to its petition on June 4, 2021.

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Location and Construction

This license pertains to Eversource's J125 electric transmission line, which extends over and across Ephrams Bay in Lake Winnisquam. The license authorizes Eversource to replace two existing wood structures that support the J125 Line across the bay and to transfer the existing electric lines to the new structures. A third structure, located mid-span on a peninsula in the bay, will be eliminated and all wires will be re-tensioned as a result. The locations of the affected structures are further specified in the petition filings.

B. Regulatory Requirements

Eversource is responsible for obtaining any and all other federal, state, or local permits required by authorities with jurisdiction for the construction of the proposed crossing. According to the petition, Eversource will obtain from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) a Statutory Permit by Notification and a Shoreland Permit by Notification for the crossing.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the crossing will not be affected by the proposed project, because the J125 Line is an existing line and the project will be accomplished within existing easements.

D. Service to the Public and the Effect on Public Rights

The petition states that the existing crossing was constructed, operated, and


maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need, and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the public waters of Lake Winnisquam in Belmont. The line modifications were 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 the public waters of Lake Winnisquam in Belmont, 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 public waters at the crossing location, 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 Clerk of Belmont by first class mail no later than October 26, 2021, with a signed affidavit of compliance filed with the Department no later than 10 days following the issuance of the license.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 21st day of October 2021.



Jared S. Chicoine
Interim Commissioner