

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**CR 2021-015
(formerly PUC DT 21-108)**

FIRSTLIGHT FIBER, INC.

LICENSE NO. CR 2021-015

October 21, 2021

**License to Construct and Maintain Telecommunications Lines
Over and Across State Owned Land in Peterborough and Temple**

This license is granted to FirstLight Fiber, Inc. (FirstLight) to construct and maintain telecommunications lines over and across Miller State Park property owned by the State of New Hampshire in Peterborough and Temple.

I. BACKGROUND

On May 27, 2021, FirstLight filed a petition with the New Hampshire Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to construct and maintain telecommunications lines over and across State lands in Peterborough and Temple. On June 30, 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](#).

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Locations and Construction

This license pertains to telecommunication lines that will be installed and

maintained over and across Miller State Park in Peterborough and Temple. The license authorizes FirstLight to attach a 1/4-inch EHS cable strand lashed with a single 144-count fiber cable below an existing electric primary neutral line owned by Eversource¹ on existing utility poles and through conduit within an existing utility corridor. Locations of the crossing structures are further specified in the petition filings.

B. Regulatory Requirements

FirstLight 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.

C. Property Rights

According to FirstLight, abutters to the crossings will not be affected by the proposed project, because the telecommunications lines will be attached to existing structures.

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

The petition states that the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. FirstLight affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need, and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of Miller State Park. The line modifications were designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

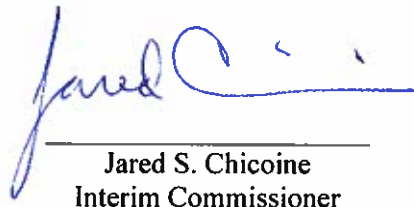
FirstLight is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install,

¹ Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) was granted a license for its electric lines at this location by the Public Utilities Commission in Order No. 26,465, issued on March 31, 2021.

operate, and maintain telecommunications lines over and across Miller State Park in Peterborough and Temple, 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 is 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 State land at the crossing locations, as required under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the petition is approved.

We require a copy of this license to be provided to the Town Clerks of Peterborough and Temple 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