

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

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

DOCKET No. CR 2022-013

**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 PUBLIC WATERS AND STATE OWNED
LAND IN WINCHESTER, 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 public waters and State owned land in Winchester, 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 345 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource 379 Line, originally constructed in 1970 over and across public waters and State owned land in Winchester, New Hampshire. The public water crossing at the Ashuelot River that is included in this petition was previously licensed in 1970 under DE- 5812 (Order No. 9885). The state owned land crossing over the Ashuelot Rail Trail, was licensed through the prior owner, Boston and Maine Corporation, but has not been previously licensed by the State of New Hampshire owing to the State taking ownership of the property after the line was originally built.

2. As part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource determined that an original wood structure at the Ashuelot River Crossing, Structures 531, needs to be replaced promptly to continue to function safely and reliably. This structure will be replaced with a

weathering steel equivalent that will be located within 10' of the original structure location. Structure 532, being the other structure at the subject public water crossing span on the west side of the Ashuelot River and which also functions as the easterly structure supporting the subject State owned land span, together with Structure 533 at the westerly side of said State owned land span, were replaced from wood to weathering steel in 2018 and were not licensed owing to an apparent oversight. This license seeks to license two crossing spans between Structures 531, 532 and 533, supported by weathered steel structures. The 379 Line's existing three conductors, single OPGW wire, and single static wire between Structures 531 to 533, whose specifications are identified on Exhibit 2, will be unchanged, and with respect to the replacement of Structures 532 and 533 in 2018 were not changed, in the course of relocation to the replacement steel structures.

3. The location of the public water crossing, which is the subject of this petition, is depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and a more detailed location description is as follows:

Exhibit 2 – The 379 Line crosses the Ashuelot River in the Town of Winchester between Structures 531 and 532, which span commences approximately 1,700 feet west from where the 379 Line crosses NH Route 10 (Keene Road) in Winchester, which is approximately 2,800 feet north from the intersection of NH Route 10 (Keene Road) and Mechanic Street. The crossing continues west approximately 135 feet to the west bank of the Ashuelot River, which is approximately 170 feet east from where the 379 Line crosses Old Westport Road in Winchester, which is approximately 2,600 feet north from the intersection of Old Westport Road and Old Spofford Road in Winchester.

The 379 Line crosses State owned land encompassing a portion of the Ashuelot Rail Trail in the Town of Winchester between Structures 532 and 533 commences approximately 9 feet east of Structure 532, which is also approximately 125 feet west of where the 379 Line crosses Old Westport Road in Winchester, which is approximately 2,600 feet north from the intersection of Old Westport Road and Old Spofford Road in Winchester. The span continues west approximately 76 feet, where it ends approximately 1,300 feet east from where the 379 Line crosses Old Spofford Road, which is approximately 2,400 feet north from the intersection of Old Spofford Road and Old Westport Road in Winchester.

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 span:

(a) Public water: Ashuelot River (Exhibit 2)

i.Structures: 531 to 532

ii.Structure Span (ft): 501.6

iii.Ashuelot River Span (ft): 135.6

(b) State owned Land Map/Lot: Winchester Map 5, Lot RR (Exhibit 2)

ii.Structures: 531 to 533

iii.Structure Span (ft): 1,218.4

iv.State Owned Land Span (ft): 76.0

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water and State owned land crossings. Flood elevation for the Ashuelot River crossing span used in calculating clearance is based on FEMA flood map data is as indicated in Note 3 to Exhibit 2.

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 23.0' for 345 kV conductor over waters not suitable for sailboating or where sailboating is prohibited, and 32.8' for 345 kV over track rails of railroads. . The actual minimum height over the public water and State owned land is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 and exceeds the respective minimum requirements.

8. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wetland statutory permit by notification (SPN) and Shoreland Permit Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the structure replacement and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction.

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the Ashuelot River as navigable waters and therefore a permit from the ACOE is not required.

10. 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. When wires are being transferred, Eversource will ensure the waterbody is clear of any

recreational users before work commences. Additionally, a guard structure will be utilized when wires are being transferred from the old structure to the new, to limit the possibilities of the wire falling into the river or the State owned land and protecting the general public.

11. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the public waters and State owned land because safe clearances will be maintained at all times and appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of recreational users will be undertaken while the maintenance work is performed.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public water and State owned land crossings which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters and State owned land as described in this petition;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 26th day of April, 2022.

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



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