

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-017

July 29, 2022

**Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines over and across
Public Waters in Merrimack and Litchfield and State-Owned Land
in Londonderry, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain an existing 115 kV electric transmission line (the T155 Line) over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Londonderry, and over and across public waters in Merrimack and Litchfield.

The T155 Line was originally constructed in 2002. The water crossing that is subject to Eversource's petition was previously licensed in 1976 under Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket DE 76-22 (Order No. 12,219). The State-owned land crossing in Londonderry was not previously licensed owing to oversight. The T155 Line was rebuilt in 2002 but not relicensed. This petition contains all the state land and waterbody crossings along the entire T155 Line which runs between the North Merrimack Substation and Watts Brook Substation.

I. BACKGROUND

On July 1, 2022, Eversource filed a petition with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to modify, reconstruct and maintain its T155 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Londonderry, and over and across public waters in Merrimack and Litchfield. On July 8, 2022, 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 to 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 Eversource's T155 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in Londonderry, and over and across the Merrimack River in Merrimack and Litchfield.

The T155 Line crosses State-owned land in the town of Londonderry between Structures 1 and 3, which span commences at Structure 1, located approximately 75 feet southwest from the southwest fence line from the Eversource Watts Brook Substation. The Watts Brook Substation is located approximately 900 feet southeast from the end of Iroquois Circle in the town of Londonderry. The crossing continues approximately 855 feet northwest to the property boundary of Map 11, Lot 20-105, located approximately 1,922 feet south from where the T155 line crosses Litchfield Road, which crossing location is approximately 250 feet east from the intersection of Litchfield Road and Sandybrook Lane.

The T155 Line crosses the Merrimack River between Structures 14 and 15 in the towns of Litchfield and Merrimack. The waterbody crossing span commences at Structure 14 in Litchfield, approximately 375 feet west from where the T155 Line crosses Brown Ave (aka State Route 3A) in Manchester which is approximately 800 feet south from the intersection of River Bend Way and Brown Ave. The crossing continues approximately 382 feet west to Structure 15 in Merrimack at the westerly side of the Merrimack River, which is

approximately 460 feet east from where the T155 Line crosses Monadnock Lane, which crossing location is approximately 215 feet northeast from the intersection of Monadnock Lane and Kinsman Lane.

The location of Structures 1, 2, and 3, in this petition creates a total span of 957.7 feet with a span of 855.5 feet crossing State-owned land. The location of Structures 14 and 15 creates a total span of 673.8 feet, with a span of 382.8 feet over and across public water.

The license authorizes, after the fact, the 2002 rebuilding of the T155 line and the State-owned land crossing in Londonderry. The T155 Line maintenance project scope also includes the replacement of one existing pole top shield wire with OPGW communication wire. The three existing phase conductors at both crossing spans that are the subject of this petition shall remain unchanged under this license.

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 stated that it will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wetland Statutory Permit Notification (SPN) and Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be obtained for the work planned under this petition in relation to temporary impacts to wetlands, and the shoreland buffer to the Merrimack River prior to the commencement of construction.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the NHDOT land in Londonderry and the Merrimack River in Merrimack and Litchfield will not be affected by the proposed project, because the crossing structures are being replaced and rebuilt within existing right-of-way easements.

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

According to the petition, the existing crossings were 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 State land parcel in Londonderry or the public waters of the Merrimack River in Merrimack and Litchfield.

The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using a 100-year flood level, which is a more conservative analysis than the NESC 10-year flood clearance requirement.

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 Londonderry and the public waters of the Merrimack River in Merrimack and Litchfield, 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 and public waters at the crossing locations in Londonderry, Merrimack and Litchfield, 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 Londonderry, Merrimack and Litchfield by first class mail no later than August 3, 2022 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 29th day of July, 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner