

**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-

**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 IN MERRIMACK AND
LICHFIELD AND STATE OWNED LAND IN LONDONDERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”), 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 in Merrimack and Lichfield and state owned land in Londonderry, 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 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource T155 Line, originally constructed in 2002 to replace a prior transmission line over and across public waters in Merrimack and Lichfield and State owned land in Londonderry, New Hampshire. The public water crossing at the Merrimack River that is included in this petition was previously licensed in 1976 under DE-76-22 (Order No. 12,219). The line was more recently re-built in 2002 and the line was not relicensed owing to an apparent oversight. The state owned land crossing in Londonderry was not previously licensed also owing to oversight. 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.

2. As part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource determined that the existing wood structures at the state land and public waterbody crossings need to be replaced promptly to continue to function safely and reliably. The structures at the state owned land and the Merrimack River crossing will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents that will be located within 10' of the original structure location. At both the state owned land and Merrimack River crossing spans that are the subject to this petition, the current T155 Line maintenance project scope also includes the replacement of one existing pole top shield wire with OPGW communication wire with the specifications and configuration shown on the Cable Schedules and Structure Details on Exhibits 2 and 3. The three existing conductors at both crossing spans that are the subject of this petition shall remain unchanged.

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

Exhibit 2 – The T155 Line crosses state owned land in the Town of Londonderry between Structures 1 and 3, which span commences at Structure 1, which is 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, which boundary location is 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.

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 Exhibits 2 and 3.

5. The location of structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing spans:

(a) State owned Land Map/Lot: Londonderry Map 11, Lot 42-0 (Exhibit 2)

i. Structures: 1 to 3

ii. Structure Span (ft): 957.7

iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 855.5

(b) Public water: Merrimack River (Exhibit 3)

ii. Structures: 14 to 15

iii. Structure Span (ft): 673.8

iv. Merrimack River Span (ft): 382.8

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 and 3 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the state owned land crossings and public water crossing. Flood elevation for the Merrimack River crossing span used in calculating clearance is based on FEMA flood map data is as indicated in Note 4 to Exhibit 3.

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 21.0' for 115 kV conductor over areas traversed by vehicles such as cultivated, grazing, forest and orchard lands, industrial sites, commercial sites, etc. in respect to the state owned land span depicted on Exhibit 2, and 30.1 feet for water areas suitable for sailboating including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams and canals with an unobstructed surface area of 20 to 200 acres in respect to the public water crossing depicted on Exhibit 3. The actual minimum height over the state owned land and public water is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 and 3 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 replacements and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction.

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does regulate the subject portion of the Merrimack River as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this petition at the subject public water crossing will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4 and which licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the maintenance project.

10. The structure replacement and OPGW installation 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 to protect the general public.

11. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the state owned land and public waters 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 state owned land and public water crossing which are the subject of this petition;

2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across state owned land and public water described in this petition;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 1st day of July, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik R. Newman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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