

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

**LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-022**

**October 12, 2022**

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across  
Public Waters in Bedford and Manchester, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to modify and maintain its 3142 Line, an existing 34.5kV electric distribution line that extends over and across public waters in Manchester and Bedford. The public water crossing at the Merrimack River that is included in this application was previously licensed in 1976 under DE 76-22 (Order No. 12,219), when the line was rebuilt.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On September 16, 2022,<sup>1</sup> Eversource filed an application with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to modify, reconstruct and maintain its 3142 Line, a 34.5kV electric distribution line that extends over and across public waters in Manchester and Bedford. On October 7, 2022, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the application be approved, and a license granted, based on the application filings, applicable statutes, rules, NESC requirements, and land ownership, as well as public need, safety, and impact. The application 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](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The Company filed a revised application on October 4, 2022.

## **II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE**

### **A. Crossing Locations and Construction**

This license pertains to Eversource's 3142 Line, a 34.5kV electric distribution line that extends over and across public waters of the Merrimack River in Manchester and Bedford. The 3142 Line crosses the Merrimack River in Manchester and Bedford between Structures 117 and 118. The length of span between Structures 117 and 118 is 800.4 feet and the length of span over and across public waters is 519.2 feet.

Structures 117 and 118 at the Merrimack River crossing span will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents that will be located within 10' of the structure locations. The three existing phase conductors and the existing neutral wire at the crossing span shall remain unchanged in the course of performing the structure replacements.

The 3142 Line crosses the public waters of the Merrimack River in the towns of Bedford and Manchester between Structures 117 and 118, commencing approximately 325 feet southeast from the southeastern corner of the Eversource Bedford Substation, located at the end of Station Road in Bedford, NH. The waterbody crossing extends east approximately 519 feet to the eastern bank of the Merrimack River, located approximately 180 feet west from where the line crosses Winston Street in Manchester approximately 700 feet west from the intersection of Winston Street and Gay Street in Manchester, NH.

### **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 application, Eversource stated that it will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) in Bedford and a Shoreland Permit Notification (PBM) for temporary impacts to wetlands

associated with the construction and installation of new of structures prior to the commencement of construction.

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 application 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.

**C. Property Rights**

According to Eversource, abutters to the Merrimack River in Manchester and Bedford 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 application, 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 public waters of the Merrimack River in Manchester and Bedford.

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 public waters of the Merrimack River in Manchester

and Bedford as described in its application and depicted in its filings and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. Based on the factual representations set forth in the application 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 public waters at the crossing locations in Manchester and Bedford, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October  
2022.



Jared S. Chicoine  
Commissioner