

**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 - 024

**APPLICATION 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 HINSDALE, 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 submits an application to the Department of Energy (“Department”) for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters and state-owned land in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. In support of this application 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 between Vernon Substation in Vernon, Vermont and the Fitzwilliam Substation in Fitzwilliam, designated as the Eversource 379 Line, which was built in 1970. The public water crossing at the Connecticut River was previously licensed in 1969 under D-E5643 (Order No. 9728). The state-owned land is a previously operated railroad owned by Boston and Maine Corporate, that is the subject of this application, has been previously licensed by Boston and Maine Corporation in 1970. The railroad property is now owned by the State of New Hampshire and is included in this application to be fully licensed.

2. As part of its ongoing efforts to improve system reliability, Eversource is replacing an existing shield wire with an OPGW wire between the Vernon Substation in Vernon, Vermont and the Northfield Mountain Substation in Northfield, Massachusetts. The OPGW wire will be located

in part on the 381 Line, a 345 kV line owned and operated by Eversource from the Northfield Mountain Substation to 381 Line, Structure 1 (which portion of new OPGW is the subject of a separate application filed concurrently herewith) and in part on the 379 Line, commencing at 379 Line Structure 592 and continuing west to the Vernon Substation. The portion of the new OPGW located upon the 379 Line crosses the Connecticut River and state-owned land, which crossings are the subject of this application. The existing pole top ADSS shield wire will be removed and replaced with an OPGW wire having the specifications and configuration shown on the Cable Schedule and Structure Details on Exhibit 2. The three existing conductors and the existing static wire at the crossing spans shall remain unchanged.

3. The locations of the public water and state-owned land crossings which are the subject of this application are 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 state-owned land, encompassing a rail trail, that runs along the east side of the Connecticut River, in the Town of Hinsdale between Structures 592 and 593, which span commences approximately 250 feet southwest to where the 379 Line crosses over Brattleboro Road (aka NH Route 119), which is approximately 2,200 feet west to the intersection of Dexter Road and Brattleboro Road (aka NH Route 119). The state land crossing extends approximately 76 feet southwest, which is approximately the width of the rail trail that is bordered by the Connecticut River on each side.

The 379 Line crosses the public waters of the Connecticut River in the Town of Hinsdale and crosses into the town of Vernon, Vermont between structures 592 to 594, which span commences immediately southwest of Brattleboro Road (aka NH Route 119) where the 379 Line crosses Brattleboro Road, which is approximately 2,200 feet west to the intersection of Dexter Road and Brattleboro Road. The water crossing extends southwest to the western bank of the Connecticut River in the Town of Vernon, Vermont, which is approximately 680 feet to the Vernon Substation that is located just north of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Facility. The crossing contains two upland areas, one being the state land crossing included in this application, between Structures 592 and 594.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this application are as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibits 2.

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

(a) State-owned Land Map/ Lot: Hinsdale, Map/Lot - None (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 592 to 593
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 2,089.4
- iii. State Land Span (ft): 76.9

(b) Public water: Connecticut River (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 592 to 594
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 4,039.2
- iii. Connecticut River Span (ft): 2,675.9

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the state-owned land crossing and public water crossing. Flood elevation for the Connecticut River crossing span used in calculating clearance is based on the max operating elevation of the Vernon Dam 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 40.8 feet for 345 kV wires over water areas suitable for sailboating including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams, and canals with an unobstructed surface area of 200 to 2000 acres in respect to the public water crossing depicted on Exhibit 2, and which is 32.8 feet for 345 kV wires over track rails of railroads in respect to the state-owned land span depicted on Exhibit 2. 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) Statutory Permit Notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with temporary work areas at specific structure locations and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Due to the aerial nature of the work, temporary work areas within the protected shoreland area on either side of the Connecticut River is not necessary, thus a NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) is not required.

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does regulate the subject portion of the Connecticut River as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this application at the crossing location is covered through Self-verification process under the ACOE New Hampshire

Programmatic General Permit #4, provided that there will be no decrease in existing clearances, which is the case with the scope of the contemplated project.

10. The 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 lake or the state-owned land to protect the general public.

11. Eversource submits that the license application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the public water 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 application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters and state-owned land crossing which are the subject of this application;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public water and state-owned land described in this application;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 24th day of October, 2022.

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



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