

**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 - 025

**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 WINCHESTER, 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 Winchester, 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 to Northfield Mountain Substation in Northfield, Massachusetts, designated as the Eversource 381 Line, which was built in 1970. The public water crossing at the Ashuelot River, and the westerly of the two state-owned land crossings that are included in this application were previously licensed in 2019 under DE 19-099 (Order No. 26,327). The second easterly state-owned land crossing of Map 7, Lot 69 has not been previously licensed owing to an apparent oversight.

2. As part of its ongoing efforts to improve system reliability, Eversource is replacing an existing shield wire on the 381 Line with an OPGW wire between substations, which will cross

the state-owned lands and public waterbody crossing that are the subject of this application¹. 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 381 Line crosses state-owned land, owned and operated by the NH DOT (Map 7, Lot 69) in the Town of Winchester between Structures 28 and 30, which span commences immediately to the south of Ashuelot Main Street (aka NH Route 119) of where the 381 Line crosses Ashuelot Main Street (aka NH Route 119), which is approximately 2,300 feet east to the intersection of Lost Road and Ashuelot Main Street (aka NH Route 119). The state-owned land crossing extends approximately 246 feet south to the property boundary of Map 7, Lot 67, which is located between Ashuelot Main St (aka NH Route 119) and the Ashuelot River.

The 381 Line crosses the public waters of the Ashuelot River in the Town of Winchester between structures 30 and 31, which span commences approximately 633 feet south from where the 381 Line crosses Ashuelot Main St (aka NH Route 119), which is approximately 2,300 feet east to the intersection of Lost Road and Ashuelot Main Street (aka NH Route 119). The crossing extends approximately 95 feet south to the southern bank of the Ashuelot River.

The 381 Line crosses the state-owned land, owned and operated by NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) and also known as the Ashuelot Rail Trail in the Town of Winchester between structures 30 and 31. The span commences approximately 976 feet south from Ashuelot Main St (aka NH Route 119), which is approximately 2,300 feet east to the intersection of Lost Road and Ashuelot Main Street (aka NH Route 119). The crossing extends approximately 110 feet south to the property boundary of Map 7, Lot 51, which is approximately 4,550 feet north to where the 381 Line crosses Old Hinsdale Road, which is approximately 900 feet east to the intersection of Old Hinsdale Road and Tower Hill Road.

¹ As part of the shield wire replacement project that is the subject of this application, the new OPGW wire will be transferred from Str. 1 on the 381 Line to the Str. 592 on the adjacent 379 Line. As the 379 line continues west from that point of transfer it crosses a state-owned railroad corridor and then over the Connecticut River before reaching the Vernon Substation in Vernon, VT. The new OPGW installation on the 379's Line where it crosses that state-owned land and the Connecticut River will be the subject of a separate application to the DOE.

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 Exhibit 2.

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

(a) State-owned Land Map/ Lot: Winchester Map/Lot 7/69 (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 28 to 30
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 544.9
- iii. State Land Span (ft): 246.3

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

- i. Structures: 30 to 31
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 606.8
- iii. Ashuelot River Span (ft): 95.1

(c) State-owned Land Map/ Lot: Winchester Map/Lot 5/RR (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 30 to 31
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 606.8
- iii. State Land Span (ft): 110.9

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 crossings and public water crossing. Flood elevation for the Ashuelot River crossing span used in calculating clearance is based on FEMA flood map data as indicated in Note 3 on 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 feet for 345 kV wires over water areas not suitable for sailboating or where sailboating is prohibited in respect to the public water crossing depicted on Exhibit 2, and which is 24.8 feet for 345 kV wires over areas traversed by vehicles such as cultivated, grazing, forest and orchard lands, industrial sites, commercial sites, etc., in respect to the span over Map 7, Lot 69 and which is 32.8 feet for 345 kV wires over track rails of railroads in respect to the span over Map 7, Lot 52, as depicted and noted on Exhibit 2. The actual minimum height over the public water and state-owned land crossings are depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 and exceed the respective minimum requirements at all three spans.

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 on either side of the Ashuelot River are not necessary, thus a NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) is not required.

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of the Ashuelot River as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit ACOE is not required.

10. The OPGW installation work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements and Eversource fee owned property, 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 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 lands 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik R. Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and "R".

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