

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-025

November 15, 2022

**License to Construct and Maintain
Electric Lines Over and Across Public Water and
State-Owned Land in Winchester, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to modify and maintain its 381 Line, a 345kV an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters in Winchester, New Hampshire. The 381 Line was previously licensed in 2019 under DE 19-099 (Order No. 26,327).

I. BACKGROUND

On October 24, 2022, Eversource filed an application with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to install and maintain an OPGW wire on the Eversource 381 Line, an existing 345kV electric transmission line that extends over and across public water and State-owned land in Winchester, New Hampshire. On November 4, 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](#).

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Locations and Construction

This license pertains to Eversource's 381 Line, a 345kV electric transmission line that extends over and across public water and State-owned land in Winchester, New Hampshire. The 381 Line crosses public waters of the Ashuelot River and state-owned lands owned and operated by both the NH DOT (Map 7, Lot 69) and by NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) also known as the Ashuelot Rail Trail in the Town of Winchester between Structures 28 and 31. The span commences approximately 2,300 feet east from the intersection of Lost Road and Ashuelot Main Street (aka NH Route 119).

The location of Structures 28 to 30 creates a total span of 544.9 feet, with a span of 246.3 feet over and across state-owned land.

The location of Structures 30 to 31 creates a total span of 606.8 feet, with a span of 95.1 feet over and across the Ashuelot River and a span of 110.9 feet over and across state owned land.

The license authorizes the replacement of an existing pole-top shield wire with an optical ground wire (OPGW). The three existing phase conductors and the existing static wire at the crossing spans 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. Eversource asserts that 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.

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 from ACOE is not required.

C. Property Rights

In its application, Eversource specifies that 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.

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 the State land and the public waters of the Ashuelot River in Winchester, New Hampshire.

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 and the public waters of the Ashuelot River in Winchester, New Hampshire, 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 land and public waters at the crossing location in Winchester, New Hampshire, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 15th day of November 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner