

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

**LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-029**

**May 30, 2023**

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines  
Over and Across Public Waters in Plymouth and Holderness**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its 343 Line, an existing electric distribution line that extends over and across public waters in Plymouth and Holderness. The 343 Line was previously licensed in 1976 under DE 76-22, Order no. 12,219.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On December 2, 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 construct and maintain its 343 Line, an electric distribution line that extends over and across public waters in Plymouth and Holderness. On May 30, 2023, 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](http://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 an amended application on May 19, 2023.

## **II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE**

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

This license pertains to Eversource's 343 Line, a 34.5 kV electric distribution line that extends over and across public waters between Structures 9 and 10. The wooden three-pole structures numbered 9 and 10 at the Pemigewasset River crossing will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents that shall be located within 10 feet of the structures' current locations. The three existing phase conductors at the river crossing span shall remain unchanged in the course of performing the structure replacements.

The 343 Line crosses the public waters of the Pemigewasset River in the towns of Plymouth and Holderness between Structures 9 and 10, which span commences approximately 2,000 feet north from where the 343 Line crosses Route 175A, which is approximately 575 feet west from the intersection of Route 175A and the Interstate 93-southbound on-ramp at Exit 25. The waterbody crossing extends north approximately 255 feet to the northern bank of the Pemigewasset River, which point is approximately 1,370 feet southeast from where the 343 Line crosses NH Route 25 (aka Main Street) in Plymouth immediately north of the Route 25 bridge over the Baker River in Plymouth.

The current location of structures 9 and 10 creates a total conductor span of 552 feet with a water crossing span of 255 feet.

### **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, a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) in the Town of Plymouth will be required for temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the construction and installation of

new structures. A NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be obtained for the work planned under this application in relation to temporary impacts to wetlands, and the shoreland buffer to the Pemigewasset River prior to the commencement of construction.

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

**C. Property Rights**

According to Eversource, abutters to the Pemigewasset River in Plymouth and Holderness will not be affected by the proposed project, because the crossing structures are being replaced and rebuilt within existing right-of-way easements, with the exception of parcel Map 101, Lot 111, owned by Plymouth Village Water and Sewer District for which there was no easement identified. Eversource has stated that the company is in discussions to secure such easement and it shall be obtained prior to commencement of any work on that parcel. Impacts to all other property owners will be mitigated by use of the right-of-way.

**D. Service to the Public and the Effect on Public Rights**

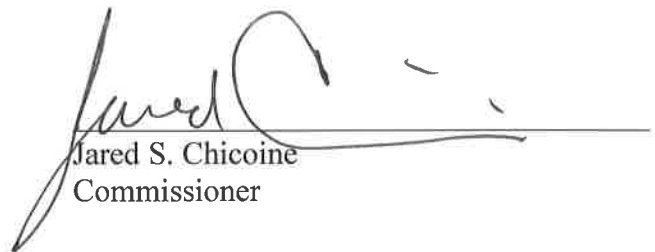
According to the application, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the public waters of the Pemigewasset River in Plymouth and Holderness.

The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The minimum clearance requirements pursuant to NESC table 232.1, ground level and the FEMA 10-year flood level 2008 (which is greater than the 100-year level) have been met.

### III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters of the Pemisgewasset River in Plymouth and Holderness, 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 public waters at the crossing locations in Plymouth and Holderness, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.



Jared S. Chicoine  
Commissioner

Pursuant to RSA 371:20, applicants and other persons directly affected by the issuance or denial of a license may appeal to the Public Utilities Commission within 30 days of the department's decision.