

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-005

March 13, 2023

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters in Dover, Durham, Lee, and Nottingham
and State-Owned Land in Dover**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its 307 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Dover, Durham, Lee, and Nottingham and land owned by the State of New Hampshire and in Dover. The 307 Line public water crossings at the Piscataqua River and the Bellamy River were licensed in 1953 under D-7649-13 (Order # 6668) and 1954 under D-E3341 (Order #6471), respectively. The public water crossings at the Oyster River and the North River were not previously licensed due to oversight, or because the waterbodies were not designated as public waters at the time the 307 Line was built. The 307 Line in New Hampshire will be licensed in its entirety as a result of this application.

I. BACKGROUND

On February 22, 2023,¹ 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 307 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Dover, Durham, Lee, and Nottingham, and State-owned land in Dover. On March 10, 2023, the

¹ The Company filed an amended application on March 7, 2023.

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.

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Locations and Construction

This license pertains to Eversource's 307 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters and land owned by the State of New Hampshire. The proposed project for the 307 Line encompasses replacing the single existing alumoweld static wire with an optical ground wire (OPGW) at the pole top position. The crossing at Exhibit 3 (Structures 65 and 66) currently has two alumoweld wires and one pole top alumoweld wire will be replaced with the proposed OPGW. At the other crossing locations an existing OPGW will remain and the existing alumoweld wire will be replaced with the proposed OPGW. All the structures at the waterbody crossing locations are steel structures, which are to remain. Structures 49 and 50 at the Piscataqua River crossing, and Structure 65 at the Bellamy River crossing are original steel structures installed when the line was built in 1972 and are not in need of replacement. Structures 106 and 107 at the Oyster River crossing, and Structure 161 at the North River crossing were replaced from wood to weathered steel in 2015. Structure 162 at the North River crossing was replaced from wood to weathered steel in 2017, and Structure 66 at the Bellamy River crossing was replaced from wood to weathered steel in 2018. These prior structure replacements were not licensed due to oversight and the 307 Line will be fully licensed as a result of this application. Existing phase conductors will remain unchanged.

The location of Structures 49 to 50 in this application creates a total span of 1099.8 feet with a span of 825.7 feet crossing the Piscataqua River in the City of Dover.

The location of Structures 65 to 66 in this application creates a total span of 829.4 feet with a span of 355.9 feet crossing State-owned land and 200 feet crossing the Bellamy River in the City of Dover.

The location of Structures 106 to 107 in this application creates a total span of 1095 feet with a span of 48.3 feet crossing the Oyster River in the Towns of Durham and Lee.

The location of Structures 161 to 162 in this application creates a total span 1002.9 feet with a span crossing 36.2 feet crossing the North River in the Town of Nottingham.

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), and Shoreland Permit Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the wire replacements and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. NHDES Utility Maintenance Notifications were obtained to account for temporary wetland impacts related to the previous structure replacements in 2015, 2017, and 2018, in connection with NHDES Permit # 2015-00650, 2017-00160, and 2018-00304, respectively.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regulates the Piscataqua River and the Bellamy River as navigable waters, and the scope of work discussed in the application at the subject crossing locations will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4. This licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the maintenance project. The Oyster River and North River crossing locations are not regulated by ACOE as navigable waters.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the public waters in Dover, Durham, Lee, and Nottingham, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Dover that are the subject of the application will not be affected by the proposed project, as 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 the public waters of the Piscataqua and Bellamy Rivers in Dover, the Oyster River in Durham and Lee, and the North River in Nottingham, or the State-owned land parcel in Dover.

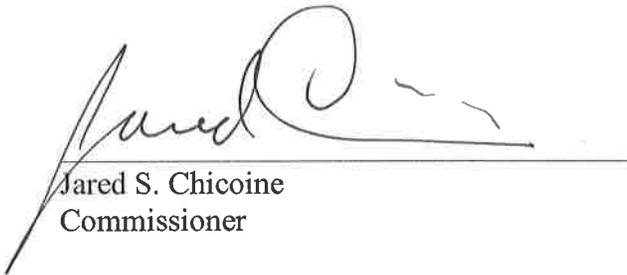
The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using a 100-year flood level, which is a more conservative analysis than the NESC 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 the Piscataqua and Bellamy Rivers in Dover, the Oyster River in Durham and Lee, and the North River in Nottingham, as well as the State-owned land parcel in Dover, 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 and subject land at the crossing locations in Dover, Durham, Lee, and Nottingham, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 13th day of March, 2023.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner