

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

**LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-007**

**April 7, 2023**

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines  
Over State Owned Land in Exeter**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its A126 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Exeter. The A126 Line was not previously licensed due to the line being built prior to the State having ownership of this parcel of land. As a result of this application, the A126 line will be licensed in its entirety.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On April 3, 2023, 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 A126 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over State-owned land in Exeter, NH. On April 6, 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.

**II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE**

**A. Crossing Locations and Construction**

This license pertains to Eversource's A126 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over land owned by the State of New Hampshire and administered by the Department

of Fish and Game (NHFGD). The proposed project for the A126 Line encompasses the replacement of existing wooden structures on state-owned land in Exeter, New Hampshire. Structures 184, 189, and 190 need to be replaced promptly to continue to function safely and reliably. Those structures will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents, which will be located within 10' of the original structure location. The A126's existing three phase conductors and two static wires within the spans encompassing this application will not be changed in the course of performing the structure replacements. Wire specifications are identified on Exhibit 2 submitted by Eversource.

The location of Structures 184 through 190 in this application creates a total span of 2,702.1 feet with a span of 2,356.8 feet crossing state-owned land in the town of Exeter.

#### **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) 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 associated with structure replacements prior to the commencement of construction.

#### **C. Property Rights**

According to Eversource, abutters to the NHFGD land in Exeter will not be affected by the proposed project because 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 State land parcel in Exeter.

The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

**III. DEPARTMENT DECISION**

Eversource is authorized pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over State land in Exeter, 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 subject land at the crossing location in Exeter, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

  
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Christopher J. Ellms, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner