

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-008 - REVISED

May 23, 2023

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters and State Owned Land
in Exeter, Brentwood, and Fremont**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its H141 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Fremont and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Exeter and Brentwood. The H141 Line crosses State-owned land between Structures 164 to 170, and between Structures 179 to 181, which crossing spans were not previously licensed due to the line being built prior to the State having ownership. The H141 Line also crosses the Exeter River between Structures 251 and 252. This crossing was not previously licensed due to the waterbody not being designated as public water prior to the line being built, or due to an oversight.

I. BACKGROUND

On April 5, 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 H141 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Fremont and State-owned land in Exeter and Brentwood. On April 20, 2023, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the application be approved, and a license granted,

¹ The Company filed an amended application on April 19, 2023.

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 H141 Line, an existing 115kV electric overhead transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Exeter River in Fremont and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Exeter and Brentwood. The Eversource H141 Line was originally built in 1950. The proposed project for the H141 Line encompasses the replacement of existing wooden structures in Exeter, Brentwood, and Fremont. Structures 164, 169, 170, 179, 180, 181, 250, and 251 need to be replaced promptly to continue to function safely and reliably. Those structures will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents that will be located within 10' of the original structure location. The H141's existing three-phase conductors, single OPGW wire, and single static wire will not be changed in the course of performing the steel structure replacements. Wire specifications are identified on Exhibits 2, 5, and 6 submitted by ES.

The H141 Line crosses a State-owned land parcel administered by NH Fish and Game in the Town of Exeter between Structures 164 and 170, which span commences approximately 1,250 feet west from where the H141 Line crosses Beech Hill Road in the Town of Exeter, which is approximately 338 feet south from the intersection of Beech Hill Road and Oaklands Road. The span continues approximately 2,300 feet west to a property boundary between the State-owned land and Map 28, Lot 13, and Map 28, Lot 14 properties, which is approximately 900 feet east

from where the line crosses Old Town Farm Road, approximately 1,700 feet north from the intersection of Old Town Farm Road and Water Road (aka NH Route 27).

The H141 Line crosses a State-owned land parcel administered by NH Department of Transportation in the Town of Brentwood between Structures 179 and 181, which span commences approximately 1,365 feet northeast from where the H141 Line crosses Pine Road, which is approximately 2,600 feet south from the intersection of Pine Road and Exeter Road (aka NH Route 27). The span continues southwest approximately 641 feet to a property boundary between State-owned land and Map 205, Block 18, which is approximately 434 feet northeast from where the H141 Line crosses Pine Road. A second state land crossing associated with Map 203, Block 36 is located immediately southwest of Pine Road and encompasses approximately 22 feet between Structure 181 to Structure 182.

The H141 Line crosses the Exeter River between Structures 250 and 251, which span commences approximately 483 feet from where the H141 Line crosses Red Brook Road, which is located approximately 780 feet east from the intersection of Red Brook Road and Danville Road (aka NH Route 111A). The span continues southwest approximately 37.2 feet to the west bank of the Exeter River.

The location of Structures 164 to 170 in this application creates a total span of 2,867.4 feet with a span of 2,299.7 feet crossing State-owned land in the Town of Exeter.

The location of Structures 179 to 181 in this application creates a total span of 1,118.9 feet with a span of 641.5 feet crossing State-owned land in the Town of Brentwood.

The location of Structures 250 and 251 in this application creates a total span of 607.8 feet with a span of 37.2 feet crossing the Exeter River in the Town of Fremont

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 to wetlands, and the shoreland buffer to the Exeter River prior to the commencement of construction.

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

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the Exeter River in Fremont and State-owned land in Exeter and Brentwood 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 public waters of the Exeter River in Fremont or the State land parcel in Exeter and Brentwood.

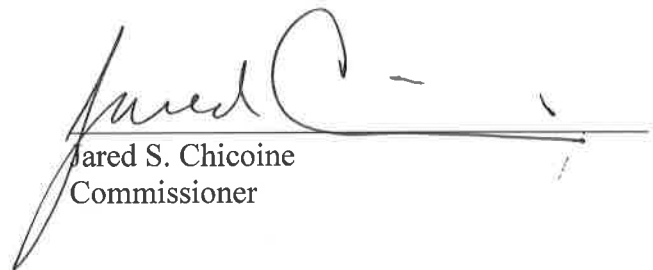
The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance

requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using 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 public waters of the Exeter River in Fremont and State-owned land in Exeter and Brentwood, 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 Exeter, Brentwood, and Fremont, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 23rd 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.