

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-009

April 17, 2023

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

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to modify and maintain its R193 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Exeter River and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Fremont. The R193 Line crosses State-owned land between Structures 278 and 279. This crossing span was not previously licensed due to the line being built prior to the State having ownership or due to oversight. The public water crossing at the Exeter River between Structures 277 and 279 was not previously licensed due to the waterbody not being designated as public water prior to the line being built, or due to oversight.

I. BACKGROUND

On April 11, 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 R193 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters and State-owned land in Fremont, New Hampshire. On April 17, 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 R193 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Fremont. The Eversource R193 Line was originally built in 1975. The proposed project for the R193 Line encompasses the replacement of existing wooden structures in Fremont. Structures 277, 278, and 279 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 R193's existing three phase conductors, single ADSS wire, and single static wire will not be changed in the course of performing the steel structure replacements. Wire specifications are identified on Exhibit 2 submitted by ES.

The location of Structures 277 to 279 in this application creates a total span of 869.8 feet with a span of 142.9 feet over public water in the Town of Fremont.

The location of structures 278 and 279 creates a total span of 457.8 feet with a span of 93.8 feet crossing State-owned land 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 wire crossing permit from ACOE is not required.

C. Property Rights

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

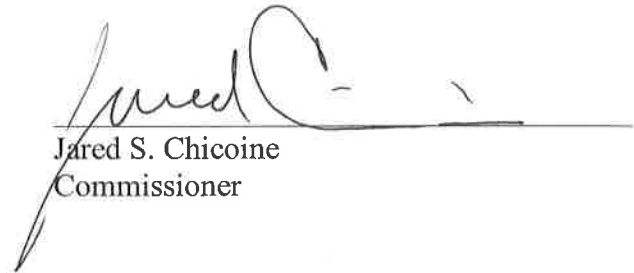
The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using a 100-year flood level, which is a more conservative analysis than the NESC 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 public waters of the Exeter River and State-owned land in Fremont, 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 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 17th day of April, 2023.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner