

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-010

May 25, 2023

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters and State Owned Land in
Canterbury, Franklin, and Northfield, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its V182 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Franklin and Northfield and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Canterbury and Franklin. The V182 Line crosses State-owned land between existing Structures 176 and 177, 209 and 210, and 268 and 269, which crossing spans were not previously licensed due to the line being built prior to the State having ownership, or due to an oversight. The public water crossings at the Merrimack River between existing Structures 208 and 209 and at Chance Pond Brook between Structures 267 and 268 were previously licensed under DE 08-064 (Order No. 24,859). Structure 208 was subsequently replaced from wood to steel in 2020 and was not licensed due to an oversight. As a result of this application, the V182 Line will be licensed in its entirety.

I. BACKGROUND

On April 19, 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 V182 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in

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

Franklin and Northfield and State-owned land in Canterbury and Franklin. On May 25, 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) 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 V182 Line, a 115kV overhead electric transmission line, which was originally built in 1951 and rebuilt in 2007 with wood structures. The proposed project for the V182 Line encompasses the replacement of existing wooden structures in Canterbury, Franklin, and Northfield. ES states that structures 176, 177, 208, 209, 210, 267, 268, and 269 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 locations. Structures 176, 177, 208, 209, 210, 267, 268, and 269 will be renumbered to 69, 70, 101, 102, 103, 160, 161, and 162, respectively. The V182 Line crosses a State-owned land parcel administered by the NH Department of Transportation in the Town of Canterbury and is located between Structures 69 and 70, which span commences approximately 65 feet northwest from where the V182 Line crosses Interstate 93 in Canterbury, which is approximately 1.5 miles north of Exit 18 on Interstate 93. The span continues approximately 89 feet northwest to the property boundary between State-owned land and Map 236, Lot 17 in the Town of Canterbury.

The V182 crosses the Merrimack River and State-owned land in the Town of Northfield and City of Franklin between Structures 101 and 102 and 103, which is located east

of where the line crosses Route 3 in Franklin, approximately 1.05 miles north of the intersection of Route 3 and Stirrup Iron Road in Boscawen. The first State-owned land boundary (Map 126, Lot 401) commences along the west bank of the Merrimack River and extends west approximately 240' where it abuts another State-owned land parcel, identified as the Northern Rail Trail. The span crosses the second State-owned property parcel, encompassing the Northern Rail Trail corridor, which has a width of 35.9'. The Merrimack River crossing occurs within the same span as described above, between Structures 101 and 102. The east bank of the river crossing occurs approximately 0.65 miles west from where the line crosses Fiddlers Choice Road in Northfield.

The V182 crosses Chance Pond Brook and State-owned land in the City of Franklin between Structures 160, 161 and 162, which span commences approximately 30 feet northeast from where the V182 Line crosses Chance Pond Road, which is approximately 90 feet northwest from the intersection of Chance Pond Road and Carr Street. The span continues approximately 523 feet to the northeast bank of Chance Pond Brook. The State-owned land span, identified as the Northern Rail Trail, commences approximately 165 feet northeast from where the V182 Line crosses Garneau Road, which is approximately 365 feet northwest from the intersection of Garneau Road and Carr Street. The span continues approximately 15.9 feet northeast where the State-owned land abuts Map 76, Lot 1.

The location of Structures (new) 69 to 70 in this application creates a total span of 660.3 feet with a span of 89.2 feet crossing State-owned land in the Town of Canterbury.

The location of Structures (new) 101 to 102 in this application creates a total span of 610 feet with a span of 319.9 feet crossing the Merrimack River in the Town of Northfield and City of Franklin.

The location of Structures (new) 101 to 103 in this application creates a total span of 985.9 feet with a span of 276.5 feet crossing State-owned land in the City of Franklin.

The location of Structures (new) 160 to 161 in this application creates a total span of 523.3 feet with a span of 244.1 feet crossing the Chance Pond Brook in the City of Franklin.

The location of Structures (new) 161 to 162 in this application creates a total span of 220.7 feet with a span of 88.6 feet crossing State-owned land in the City of Franklin.

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 Standard Dredge and Fill permit and a shoreland statutory permit by notification will be required for temporary impacts associated with the structure replacements and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction.

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

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the Merrimack River in Northfield and Franklin, Chance Pond Brook in Franklin, and State-owned land in Canterbury and Franklin, including NHDOT land in Canterbury 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

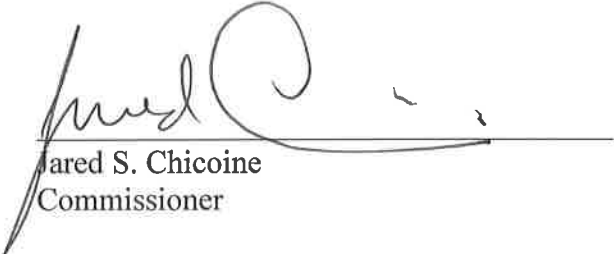
According to the application, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the public waters of the Merrimack River in Northfield and Franklin, Chance Pond Brook in Franklin or the State land parcels in Canterbury and Franklin.

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 crossings 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 Merrimack River in Northfield and Franklin, Chance Pond Brook in Franklin and the State land parcels in Canterbury and Franklin, 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 Canterbury, Franklin, and Northfield, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 25th 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.