

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

DOCKET No. CR 2023 - 011

**APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS PUBLIC WATERS AND STATE-OWNED
LAND IN LITCHFIELD, MERRIMACK, AMHERST AND MILFORD, NEW
HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”), a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire, hereby submits an application the Department of Energy (“Department”) for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters in Litchfield, Merrimack, Milford and Amherst and state-owned land in Merrimack, New Hampshire. In support of this application Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the requirements for reasonable service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource W157 Line, which was originally built in 1967 between the Milford Tap in Litchfield, New Hampshire and South Milford Substation in Milford, New Hampshire. The public water crossings at the Merrimack River at Structures 7 and 8 and the Souhegan River at Structures 16 and 17, that are the subject of this application were both licensed in 1976 under DE 76-22 (Order # 12,219), copies of which are included with this application submission. The other public water crossings at the Souhegan River between Structures 25 and 26, 33 and 34, and 112 to 113, and Beaver Brook between Structures 92 and 93, and the state-owned land between Structures 18 and 22, that are also the subject of this application, were not previously licensed owing to oversight, or that the waterbodies were not designated as public waters,

or the state did not have ownership at the time the W157 Line was built. The W157 Line in New Hampshire will be licensed in its entirety as a result of this application.

2. The proposed project for the W157 Line encompasses replacing the existing two shield wires with two optical ground wires at the pole top position and structure replacements from wood to weathering steel at crossing locations subject to this petition comprising Structures 18 through 22, 25, 34, and 93. Structures 16, 17, 26, 33, 92, 112 and 113 are in good functional condition and will remain as wood. Structures 7 and 8, at the Merrimack River crossing were replaced from wood to steel in 2016 without a license owing to oversight and will be licensed as a result of this application. The 3 existing conductors having the characteristics noted in the Cable Schedule of Exhibits 2 through 8 will be unchanged.

3. All structure replacements will be installed within 10 feet of the existing locations. The prior structures 7 and 8 replacement locations were similarly installed within 10 feet of the original locations.

4. The locations of the public water crossings which are the subject of this application are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and a more detailed location description is as follows:

Exhibit 2 – The W157 Line crosses the Merrimack River between Litchfield and Merrimack, New Hampshire between Structures 7 and 8, which span begins approximately 2,470 feet southwest from where the W157 Line crosses Charles Bancroft Highway (aka NH Route 3A), which is at the intersection of Hilcrest Rd and Charles Bancroft Highway (aka NH Route 3A). The span extends southwest approximately 400 feet to the west bank of the Merrimack River, which is approximately 1,390 feet east from where the W157 Line crosses Daniel Webster Highway (aka NH Route 3) in Merrimack, which is at the intersection of E. Chamberlain Road and Daniel Webster Highway (aka NH Route 3).

Exhibit 3 – The W157 Line crosses the Souhegan River between Structures 16 and 17 in the Town of Merrimack. The span begins approximately 1,200 feet east from where the W157 Line crosses Daniel Webster Highway (aka NH Route 3), which is at the intersection of E Chamberland Rd and Daniel Webster Highway (aka NH Route 3). The crossing extends approximately 264 feet to the northwest bank of the Souhegan River.

Exhibit 4 – The W157 Line crosses the state-owned land operated by the Department of Transportation between Structures 18 and 22 in the Town of Merrimack. The crossing commences where the W157 line crosses the western edge of the Everett Turnpike, which is approximately 3,800 feet south from where Baboosic Lake Road overpasses the Everett Turnpike. The crossing extends north-westerly over the state-owned land approximately 1,082 feet to where the state-owned property ends at the property boundary with Map 5C, Lot 658, which is located approximately 1,400 feet east from the next described crossing of the Souhegan River.

Exhibit 5 – The W157 Line crosses the Souhegan River between Structures 25 and 26 in the Town of Merrimack, which span commences approximately 2,360 feet east from where the W157 Line crosses the western edge of the Everett Turnpike, which is approximately 3,800 feet south from where the Baboosic Lake Road overpasses the Everett Turnpike. The crossing extends approximately 145 feet west to the western bank of the Souhegan River, which is approximately 1,300 feet east from where the line crosses Iris Drive, which is approximately 700 feet northeast from the intersection of Iris Drive and Turkey Hill Road.

Exhibit 6 - The W157 Line crosses the Souhegan River between Structures 33 and 34 in the Town of Merrimack, which span commences approximately 125 feet east from where the W157 Line crosses Turkey Hill Road, which is approximately 150 feet northwest from the intersection of Cota Road and Turkey Hill Road. The crossing extends approximately 95 feet to the western bank of the Souhegan River, which is approximately 2,400 feet west from here the line crosses Wilson Hill Drive, which is approximately 630 feet northeast to the intersection of Wilson Hill Road and Old Blood Road.

Exhibit 7 - The W157 Line crosses Beaver Brook between Structures 92 and 93 in the Town of Amherst, which span commences approximately 40 feet southwest from where the W157 Line crosses Corduroy Road and at the intersection of Corduroy Road and Boston Post Road. The crossing extends approximately 15 feet to the western bank of the Beaver Brook, which is approximately 640 feet east from where the line crosses the intersection of NH Route 122 and the NH Route 101 west-bound on-ramp.

Exhibit 8 - The W157 Line crosses the Souhegan River between Structures 112 and 113 in the Town of Amherst and Milford, which span commences approximately 2,000 feet southeast from where the W157 Line crosses Merrimack Street, which is approximately 550 feet east from the intersection of Fox Run Road and Merrimack Street. The crossing extends approximately 123 feet to the southern bank of the Souhegan River, which is approximately 1,030 feet northeast from where the line crosses the intersection of Nashua Road (aka NH Route 101A) and Kelly Park Lane in Milford.

5. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this application are as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibits 2 through 8.

6. The location of structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing spans:

(a) Public water: Merrimack River (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 7 to 8
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 589
- iii. Merrimack River Span (ft): 400.2

(b) Public water: Souhegan River (Exhibit 3)

- i. Structures: 16 to 17
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 475.3
- iii. Souhegan River Span (ft): 264.6

(c) State-owned Land: Town of Merrimack, Map 5C, Lot 659 (Exhibit 4)

- i. Structures: 18 to 22
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,422.9
- iii. State-owned Land Span (ft): 1082.9

(d) Public water: Souhegan River (Exhibit 5)

- i. Structures: 25 to 26
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 489.4
- iii. Souhegan River Span (ft): 145.1

(e) Public water: Souhegan River (Exhibit 6)

- i. Structures: 33 to 34
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 518.8
- iii. Souhegan River Span (ft): 95.4

(f) Public water: Beaver Brook (Exhibit 7)

- i. Structures: 92 to 93
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 439.9
- iii. Beaver Brook Span (ft): 15.6

(g) Public water: Souhegan River (Exhibit 8)

- i. Structures: 112 to 113
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 267.8
- iii. Beaver Brook Span (ft): 123.8

7. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 through 8 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water and state-owned land

crossings. Flood elevations for the water crossing spans used in calculating clearance is based on FEMA flood map or FEMA elevation interpolation guidelines is as indicated in Note 3 to Exhibits 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

8. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1) which is: 30.1 feet for 115 kV wires over water areas suitable for sailboating including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams and canals with unobstructed surface area of over 20 to 200 acres as noted on Exhibit 2; 18.6 feet for 115 kV wires over water areas not suitable for sailboating or where sailboating is prohibited in respect to the public water crossings depicted on Exhibit 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8; and is 20.1 feet for 115 kV wires over state-owned lands as other areas traversed by vehicles, such as cultivated, grazing, forest, and orchard lands, industrial sites, commercial sites, etc. as depicted on Exhibit 4. The actual minimum height over the public water and state-owned land are depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 through 8 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

9. 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 structure replacements described in this application 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 replacements of Structure 7 and 8, in 2016, NHDES Permit # 2016-00059, and 2016-00066.

10. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does regulate the Merrimack River as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this application at the subject crossing location will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4 and which licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the maintenance project. The Souhegan River and Beaver Brook crossing locations are not regulated by ACOE as navigable waters.

11. The structure replacement and OPGW installation work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements, thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners affected by the project scope. When wires are being transferred, Eversource will ensure the

waterbody and state-owned land is clear of any recreational users before work commences. Additionally, a guard structure will be utilized when wires are being transferred from the old structure to the new, to limit the possibilities of the wire falling into the waterbody or state-owned land to protect the general public.

12. Eversource submits that the license application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the public water and state-owned land because safe clearances will be maintained at all times and appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of recreational users will be undertaken while the maintenance work is performed.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Find that the license application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters and state-owned land crossing which are the subject of this application;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public water and state-owned land described in this application;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 1st day of June, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
By Its Attorney



Erik R. Newman, Senior Counsel, Legal
780 North Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
(603) 634-2459