

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-012

June 20, 2023

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters and State Owned Land
in Concord, Bow, Pembroke, and Allenstown**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its G146 Line, an existing electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Concord, Bow, Pembroke, and Allenstown, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The G146 Line was previously licensed in 1976 under order DE 76-22.

I. BACKGROUND

On May 25, 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 G146 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters in Concord, Bow, Pembroke, and Allenstown and State-owned land in Pembroke and Allenstown, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On June 19, 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

¹ The Company filed an amended application on June 12, 2023.

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 G146 Line, which is a 115kV overhead electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Suncook River in Pembroke and Allenstown, the Soucook River in Concord and Pembroke, and the Merrimack River in Concord and Bow, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Pembroke and Allenstown. The Eversource G146 line was originally built in 1951.

The proposed project for the G146 Line encompasses replacing wood structures 110 to 119, 176 to 177, and 184 to 185 with weathering steel equivalents that are to be located within 10 feet of the current structure locations. The three existing phase conductors, OPGW wire, and static wire shall remain unchanged in the course of performing the structure replacements. The specifications and configuration of the existing conductors, OPGW wire, static wire, and replacement structures are shown on the Cable Schedule and Structural Details on Exhibits 2 through 8.

The G146 Line crosses the Suncook River in the Towns of Pembroke and Allenstown between Structures 118 and 119, which span commences approximately 7,060 feet northwesterly from where the G146 Line crosses New Rye Road, which is approximately 3,100 feet northeast from the intersection of Deerfield Road and New Rye Road. The waterbody crossing span extends west approximately 89 feet to the west bank of the Suncook River, which is adjacent to where the G146 Line crosses Bachelder Road, which is approximately 1,050 feet northeast from the intersection of Bachelder Road and N. Pembroke Road.

The designed location of structures 118 to 119 creates a span of 653 ft with 89.5 ft crossing the Suncook River.

The G146 Line crosses the Soucook River in the City of Concord and Town of Pembroke between Structures 176 and 177, which span commences approximately 2,100 feet northeast from where the G146 Line crosses Garvin's Falls Road, which is approximately 1.61 miles southeast from the intersection of Garvin's Falls Road and Manchester Street (aka NH Route 3) in Concord. The waterbody crossing span extends northeast approximately 60.1 feet to the east bank of the Soucook River.

The designed location of structures 176 to 177 creates a span of 569.8 ft with 60.1 ft crossing the Soucook River.

The G146 Line crosses the Merrimack River in the Town of Bow and the City of Concord between Structures 184 and 185, which span commences near the end of Garvin's Falls Road in the Town of Bow, approximately 265 feet south of where Garvin's Falls Road crosses the existing Pan Am railroad and extends east approximately 790 feet to the east bank of the Merrimack River, to Structure 185. That easterly end of the span is approximately 1,500 feet west from where the G146 Line crosses Garvin's Falls Road, which is approximately 1.65 miles southeast from the intersection of Garvin's Falls Road and Manchester Street (State Route 3).

The designed location of structures 184 to 185 creates a span of 790.8 ft with 528.4 ft crossing the Merrimack River.

The G146 Line crosses a State-owned land parcel associated with Bear Brook State Park in the Towns of Allenstown and Pembroke between Structures 110 and 119, which span commences approximately 2,600 feet northwest from where the G146 Line crosses New Rye Road, which is approximately 3,100 feet northeast from the intersection of Deerfield Road and

New Rye Road. The State-owned land crossing span extends northwesterly approximately 4,437 feet to the east bank of the Suncook River, where the State-owned land parcel ends.

The designed location of structures 110 to 119 creates a total span of 4,686.9 ft with 4,437.9 ft crossing State-owned land.

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 (PBN) and Shoreland Permit Notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with certain structure replacements and will be obtained prior to the commencement of construction.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regulates the subject portion of the Merrimack River as navigable waters and the scope of work at Structure 184 and Structure 185 discussed in this application at the subject public water crossing will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4, and this licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the maintenance project.

The ACOE does not regulate the Suncook or Soucook Rivers as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from ACOE is not required for the crossings at these rivers.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the Suncook River in Pembroke and Allenstown, the Soucook River in Concord and Pembroke, and the Merrimack River in Concord and Bow, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Pembroke and Allenstown 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 Suncook River in Pembroke and Allenstown, the Soucook River in Concord and Pembroke, and the Merrimack River in Concord and Bow, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Pembroke and Allenstown.

The flood elevations for the Merrimack, Suncook, and Soucook Rivers are detailed using FEMA 100-year Flood Map data.

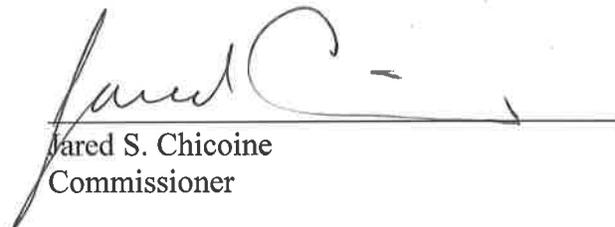
For State-land crossings at structures 110 to 119, Eversource shall maintain NESC clearances of no less than 20.1 ft for 115kV lines. For the public water crossings at structures 118 to 119, 176 to 177, and 184 to 185, Eversource shall maintain NESC clearances of no less than 18.6 ft for 115kV lines.

II. 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 Suncook River in Pembroke and Allenstown, the Soucook River in Concord and Pembroke, and the Merrimack River in Concord and Bow, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Pembroke and Allenstown, 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 Concord, Bow, Pembroke, and Allenstown, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 20th day of June 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.