

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-020

September 13, 2023

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

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its U181 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Portsmouth, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The U181 Line, which crosses State-owned land in Portsmouth, New Hampshire between Structures 44 and 56, was not previously licensed. Maintenance and replacement work on Structures 46, 47, 55, and 56 was completed in 2017 without licensure due to an oversight. As a result of this application, the U181 Line will be fully licensed.

I. BACKGROUND

On August 23, 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 U181 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across State-owned land in Portsmouth, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On September 11, 2023, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the application be approved, and a license granted, based on the

¹ The Company filed an amended application on September 7, 2023.

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 U181 Line, which is a 115kV overhead electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Portsmouth, including land between Structures 44 and 56, which is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game. The Eversource U181 line was originally built in 1950.

The proposed project for the U181 Line encompasses replacing the existing wood structures 44, 45, and 48-54, in order to continue to function safely and reliably. The wood structures will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents that shall be located within 10' of existing structure locations. Structures 46, 47, 55, and 56 were replaced with weathering steel in 2017 within 10' of the prior structure locations. The existing three conductors and two shield wires will remain unchanged in the course of performing the replacement work.

The U181 Line crosses the State-owned land in the City of Portsmouth between Structures 44 and 56, known as the Great Bog property, operated by New Hampshire Fish and Game. The crossing starts along the southern edge of Greenland Road Ave (aka NH Route 33) where the line crosses approximately 550 feet west of the intersection of Greenland Road and Dodge Ave. The crossing extends approximately 4,400 feet south to the property boundary of Map 282, Block 5 in the City of Portsmouth, which is approximately 4,800 feet

from where the line crosses Ocean Road, which line crossing location is approximately 650 southeast from the intersection of Ocean Road and Buckminster Way.

The proposed structure locations from Structures 44 to 56 create a total span of 5,070.4 feet with 4,400 feet 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 NHDES Utility Maintenance Notification (UMN) was obtained by Eversource for temporary impacts associated with the structure replacements completed in 2017, UMN # 2017-00116. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Standard Dredge and Fill (SDF) permit will be required for impacts associated with the structure replacements of this project and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the State-owned land in Portsmouth 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 State land parcel in Portsmouth.

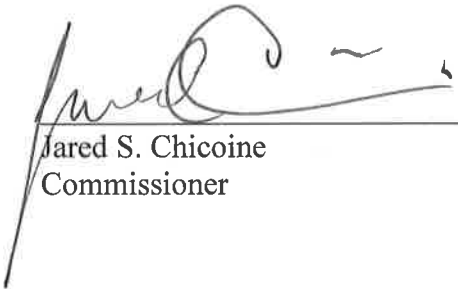
Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code. The actual

minimum height over the State-owned land exceeds the respective minimum requirements. The specifications of the proposed replacement work and proposed structure locations were found to be in conformance with N.H. admin. Rule PUC 306.

II. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across State land in Portsmouth, 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 subject land at the crossing location in Portsmouth, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 13th day of September 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.