

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-027

February 16, 2024

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters in Gorham and State Owned Land
in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its S136 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters in Gorham and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The S136 Line was previously licensed under DE 19-162 (Order No. 26,396) in 2020.

I. BACKGROUND

On December 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 S136 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters in Gorham and State-owned land in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On January 30, 2024, 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,

¹ The Company filed an amended application on January 22, 2024.

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 (www.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 S136 Line, which is a 115kV overhead electric transmission line that extends over and across the public waters of Moose Brook and the Androscoggin River in Gorham, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham. The Eversource S136 line was originally built in 1969.

The proposed project for the S136 Line encompasses replacing the wood structures with weathering steel equivalents within 10' of current structure locations. As part of the replacement project, Eversource is also renumbering new and existing structures. Structures 58 and 59 will be renumbered to 57 and 58; Structures 230 and 231 will be renumbered to 229 and 230; Structures 264 to 265 will be renumbered to 263 to 264; Structures 280 through 283 will be renumbered to 279 through 282; and Structures 293 and 294 will be renumbered to 292 and 293. Structures 229, 263, 264, 279, and 293 have been previously replaced with steel and will remain unchanged.

The S136 Line crosses a State-owned rail trail in the Town of Whitefield between Structures 57 and 58. Structure 57 is located approximately 1,750 feet SE from where the S136 Line crosses Localizer Dr. Structure 58 is located in Jefferson, approximately 230 feet SE from Structure 57. The State-owned land crossing begins 46.7 feet SE of Structure 57. These proposed Structure locations create a total span of 228.5 feet, with 95.5 feet

crossing State-owned land.

The S136 Line crosses a State-owned rail trail in the Town of Randolph between Structures 229 and 230. Structure 229 is located approximately 460 feet SW from where the S136 Line crosses Pinkham B Road. Structure 230 is approximately 350 feet NE from Structure 229. The State-owned land crossing begins 83.6 feet NE of Structure 229. These proposed structure locations create a total span of 352.4 feet, with 183.4 feet crossing State-owned land.

The S136 Line crosses State-owned land in the Town of Gorham between Structures 263 and 264. Structure 263 is located approximately 4,200 feet NE from where the S136 Line crosses Mineral Springs Road in Gorham. Structure 264 is approximately 930 feet NE of Structure 263. The State-owned land crossing begins 219.6 feet NE of Structure 263. These proposed structure locations create a total span of 926.7 feet, with 115 feet crossing State-owned land.

The S136 Line crosses State-owned land in the Town of Gorham from Structure 279 through Structure 281. Structure 279 is located approximately 315 feet S from where the S136 Line crosses Lancaster Road (aka US Route 2). Structure 280 is approximately 466 feet N of Structure 279. Structure 281 is approximately 462 feet N of Structure 280. The State-owned land crossing begins 369.8 feet N of Structure 279. These proposed structure locations create a total span of 929.1 feet with 108.5 feet crossing State-owned land.

The S136 Line crosses the public waters of Moose Brook in the Town of Gorham between Structures 281 and 282. Structure 281 is approximately 235 feet N from where the S136 Line crosses Crestwood Drive. Structure 282 is approximately 495 feet N of Structure 281. The crossing at Moose Brook begins 124.3 feet N of Structure 281. These proposed structure locations create a total span of 495.6 feet with 37.8 feet crossing

the public waters of Moose Brook.

The S136 Line crosses the public waters of the Androscoggin River in the in the Town of Gorham between Structures 292 and 293. Structure 292 is located approximately 150 feet W from where the S136 Line crosses Main Street (NH Route 16). Structure 293 is approximately 560 feet E of Structure 292. The crossing of the Androscoggin River begins 227.57 feet E from Structure 292. These proposed structure locations create a total span of 561.8 feet with 243.5 feet crossing the public water of the Androscoggin River.

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) Standard Dredge and Fill Permit and a Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be obtained for the work planned under this application in relation to temporary impacts associated with the structure replacements prior to the commencement of construction.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portions of Moose Brook or the Androscoggin River as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from ACOE is not required.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to Moose Brook and the Androscoggin River in Gorham and State-owned land in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham will not be affected by the proposed project, because the structure replacements, conductor installation, and OPGW installation work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements.

D. Service to the Public and the Effect on Public Rights

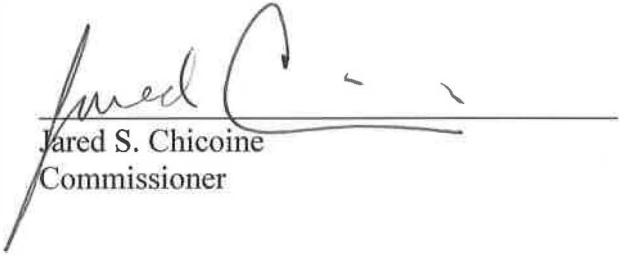
According to the application, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the public waters of Moose Brook or the Androscoggin River in Gorham or the State land parcels in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham.

Eversource will own, maintain, and operate the S136 line with clearances at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code. The minimum clearance requirements with respect to ground level and design conditions at 392° F as well as the FEMA 10-year flood level have been met.

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 Moose Brook and the Androscoggin River in Gorham and State land in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham, 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 Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 16th day of February
2024.



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.