

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2024-001

March 5, 2024

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

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its R169 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Dover, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The R169 Line was previously licensed as follows:

- In 1955, the Piscataqua River crossing at Str. 3-4 was licensed under DE-3442, order No. 6,668;
- In 2001, the Cocheco River crossing at Str. 28-29 was licensed under DE 01-233, order No. 23, 860;
- In 2022, the Cocheco River crossing at Str. 26-27 was licensed under CRE 2022-019;
- The State-owned lands in this current application were also previously licensed under CRE 2022-019.

I. BACKGROUND

On February 15, 2024, 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 R169 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and State-owned land in Dover, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On February 15, 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, 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 R169 Line, which is a 115kV overhead electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Piscataqua and Cochecho Rivers, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire and administered by the Department of Fish and Game in Dover. The Eversource R169 line was originally built in 1953 and was rebuilt in 2002.

The proposed project for the R169 Line encompasses replacing the existing wood structures and renumbering all structures. Structures 4 through 30 shall be renumbered 3 through 29, respectively. Renumbered structures 19, 21, 22, 27, and 28 will be replaced with weathering steel equivalents and located within 10 feet of the current structure locations. Renumbered structure 20 will be relocated 40 feet northwest of the current structure location to allow for construction space away from a property boundary wall. Structure 29 at the Cochecho River span will be planned and replaced as part of a separate project at the Cochecho Street Substation.

The existing pole-top static wire for the entirety of the R169 Line is being replaced with OPGW. The three existing conductors and ADSS cable will be transferred, but remain unchanged as a result of the project.

The R169 Line crosses the public waters of the Piscataqua River between Structure 3 in Eliot, Maine and Structure 4 in Dover, New Hampshire. Structure 4 is located approximately 2,800 feet SE from where the R169 Line crosses Cullen Bay Rd. The Piscataqua River crossing begins approximately 95 feet SE from Structure 4 and continues SE over public waters to Structure 3 in Maine.

The proposed structure locations create a total span of 1,095.8 feet, with 853.8 feet of the span crossing public waters.

The R169 Line crosses State-owned land in Dover between Structures 19 through 27. Structure 19 is located approximately 400 feet SE of where the R169 Line crosses McKone Ln. The State-owned land crossing begins on the NW side of McKone Ln, approximately 435 feet NW of Structure 19 and continues NW to Structure 26 where the State-owned land ends at the bank of the Cocheco River, approximately 100 feet beyond Str. 26 (there is a privately owned driveway between Structures 22 and 23, which eliminates 83.5 feet of State-owned land in that span).

The proposed structure locations create a total span of 4,023.3 feet, with 3,077.2 feet of the span crossing State-owned land managed by the Department of Fish and Game.

The R169 Line crosses the Cocheco River between structures 26 and 27 and again between structures 28 and 29. Structure 26 is located approximately 2,800 feet E of the intersection of River St. and Washington St. in Dover. The first public water crossing begins approximately 100 feet N of structure 26. Structure 28 is located approximately 670 feet SE from where the R169 Line crosses Cocheco St. The second water crossing begins approximately 150 feet NW from Structure 28.

The proposed structure locations create a total span of 1,157.5 feet with 637.9 feet of the two spans crossing the public waters of the Cocheco 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 crossings. According to the application, a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wetland statutory permit by notification (PBN) and a Shoreland Permit Notification (SPN) will be required and 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) regulates the subject portions of the Piscataqua and Cocheco Rivers as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this application at the subject public water crossings will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4 prior to commencement of the construction project.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the Piscataqua and Cocheco Rivers and the State-owned land in Dover 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

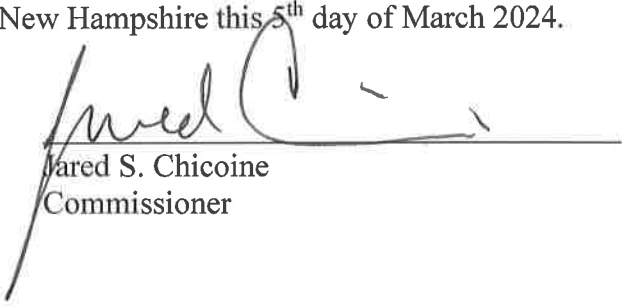
According to the application, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the public waters of the Piscataqua and Cocheco Rivers or the State land parcel in Dover.

The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The minimum clearance requirements with respect to ground level and design conditions at 285° F for the 1272 conductor and 32° F for ADSS, 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 the Piscataqua and Cochecho Rivers and State land in Dover, 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 Dover, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 5th day of March 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.