

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2024-004

June 24, 2024

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters and State Owned Land
in Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its A164 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 Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The portions of the A164 Line crossing public waters at Daniels Lake between existing Structures #13 and #14, and between existing Structures #16 and #17, the Piscataquog River between existing Structures #101 and #102, the Contoocook River and Beard Brook between existing Structures #177 and #176, and Beard Brook between existing Structures #181 and #182 were previously licensed under NH Puc Order # 24,772 (DE 07-071). The land between Structures #169 and #170 was acquired by the State in 1989, therefore, that crossing location was not previously licensed. Existing Structures #101 and #102 were replaced from wood to steel in 2016 without obtaining a license, owing to an oversight. As a result of this application, the A164 Line will be licensed in its entirety.

I. BACKGROUND

On May 30, 2024,¹ 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 A164 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters in Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough, and State-owned land in Deering, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On June 20, 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 A164 Line, which is a 115kV overhead electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of Daniels Lake, the Piscataquog River, the Contoocook River, and Beard Brook in Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire and administered by the Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in Deering. The Eversource A164 line was originally built in 1975 and referenced as the F162 line, which was rebuilt in 2008. Following the line rebuild, the Weare Substation was constructed, which bisected the F162 line, resulting in the A164 Line designation between Weare Substation and Jackman Substation and the F162 Line between Greggs Substation and Weare Substation.

The proposed project for the A164 Line encompasses replacing the ten existing wood structures with weathered steel structures. The three existing transmission conductors and

¹ The Company filed an amended application on June 14, 2024.

one existing optical ground wire (OPGW) will be transferred to the new structures. One existing static wire also will be replaced with OPGW during the transfer. Six structures will be renumbered.

The scope of this project begins in Weare at Structure #13 east of Daniels Lake then crossing west over Daniels Lake to Structure #14. The A164 Line then traverses west again crossing Daniels Lake in Weare between Structures #16 and #17, continuing northwest to a Piscataquog River crossing in Deering between Structures #101 and #102 and a land crossing between Structures #168 and #169 also in Deering. The A164 Line continues northwest for water crossings over the Contoocook River between Structure #175 in Deering and then northwest across Beard Brook to Structure #176 in Hillsborough. Continuing northwest, the A164 Line again crosses Beard Brook between Structures #180 and #181.

The two Daniels Lake water crossings span 662.0 feet between Structure #13 and #14 and 495.9 feet between Structures #16 and #17 in Weare.

The water crossing spans 570.9 feet between Structures #101 and #102 with 18.3 feet crossing the Piscataquog River in Deering.

The land crossing spans 321.3 feet between Structures #168 and #169 with 52.3 feet crossing State-owned land in Deering.

The water crossings span 860.7 feet between Structures #175 and #176 with 167.3 feet crossing the Contoocook River in Deering and 142.1 feet (two crossings comprising 54.4 feet and 87.7 feet) crossing the Beard Brook in Hillsborough.

The water crossing spans 539.8 feet between Structures #180 and #181 with 98.9 feet spanning the Beard Brook in Hillsborough.

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 Statutory 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 Daniels Lake, the Piscataquog River, the Contoocook River, or Beard Brook as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from ACOE is not required.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to Daniels Lake, the Piscataquog River, the Contoocook River, and Beard Brook in Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough and NHDOT/State-owned land in Deering 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

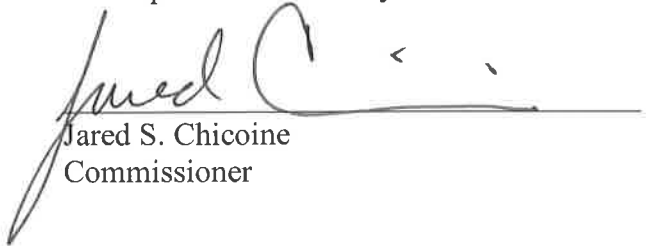
According to the application, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the public waters of Daniels Lake, the Piscataquog River, the Contoocook River, and Beard Brook in Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough or the State land parcel in Deering.

The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in conformance with N.H. Admin. Rule Puc 306 and applicable sections of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) C2-2012. The clearance requirements were met using the NESC based on the design conditions at 285⁰ F and will be maintained and operated at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 NESC.

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 Daniels Lake, the Piscataquog River, the Contoocook River, and Beard Brook in Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough and State land in Deering, 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 Weare, Deering, and Hillsborough, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 24th day of June 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.