

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

**LICENSE NO. CRE 2024-008**

**September 6, 2024**

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

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its M127 Line, an existing three phase 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and land owned by the State of New Hampshire and administered by the N.H. Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in Franklin, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The portion of the M127 Line that crosses State-owned land between Webster Substation, Structure 0.5 and Structure 1, and a public water crossing between Structures 1 and 2, was previously licensed under Order # 26,389 (DE 20-014).

**I. BACKGROUND**

On August 22, 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 M127 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and State-owned land in Franklin, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On August 23, 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](http://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 M127 Line, which is a 115kV overhead electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of Chance Pond Brook, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire and administered by NHDOT in Franklin. The Eversource M127 line was originally built in 1967.

The proposed project for the M127 Line encompasses replacing 2 existing wood structures with weathered steel structures. The 3 existing transmission conductors, 1 shield wire, and 1 OPGW, having the specifications detailed under the Cable Schedule, will be transferred to the replacement structures.

Common to all these noted structures, the existing conductors consist of 3 ACSR 795 36/1 kcmil conductors. The 1 OPGW wire (48F) and the 1 7#8 Alumoweld shield wire will be vertically attached above the conductors.

The scope of this project begins at the Webster Substation in Franklin where the M127 Line crosses State-owned land, a rail trail operated by NHDOT known as the Northern Rail Trail, in the City of Franklin and is located between the southwestern side of the Webster Substation and M127 Structure 1. This crossing commences approximately 60 feet from the southwestern facing fence line of the Webster Substation along the M127 Line, which is 270 feet northeast from where the M127 Line crosses Garneau Road, which is approximately 530 feet northwest from the intersection of Garneau Road and Carr Street in Franklin, NH. The span

continues approximately 136 feet southwest to the southerly property boundary of the rail trail (no map/lot number).

The land crossing spans 288.6 feet between Webster Substation and Structure #1 with 136.1 feet (comprising 92.8 feet Webster S/S to Structure #0.5 + 43.3 feet Structures #0.5 to #1) crossing State-owned land in Franklin.

The M127 Line crosses Chance Pond Brook in the City of Franklin between Structures 1 and 2. The Chance Pond Brook crossing commences approximately 90 feet southwest from where the M127 Line crosses Gameau Road, which is approximately 530 feet northwest from the intersection of Gameau Road and Carr Street in Franklin, NH. The span continues approximately 221 feet southwest to the southwest bank of Chance Pond Brook.

#### **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) Shoreland Statutory Permit by Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts to the shoreland buffer associated with the structure replacement and is covered under NHDES File No. 2023-00825. This project does not require any impacts to wetlands thus neither a NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill nor a Statutory Permit by Notification is required.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of Chance Pond Brook as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from ACOE is not required.

**C. Property Rights**

According to Eversource, abutters to Chance Pond Brook and NHDOT/State-owned land in Franklin 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 Chance Pond Brook or the State land parcel in Franklin.

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) C2-2017.

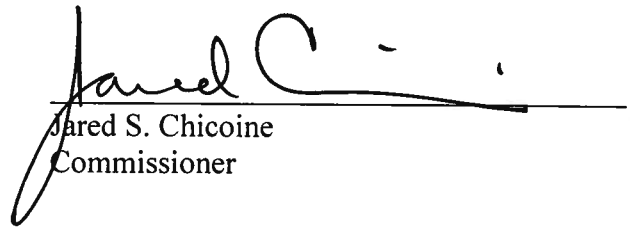
The conductor cable clearance requirements were met using the NESC based on the design conditions at 392° F for all crossings within this petition. This scenario was the governing condition which yielded the greatest sag and lowest clearance. Staff verified the computed sags with SAG 10 commercial software using inputs as stated in the application.

**III. 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 Chance Pond Brook and State land in Franklin, 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 Franklin, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 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.