

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

**LICENSE NO. CRE 2024-009**

**September 6, 2024**

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

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its 3178 Line, an existing three phase 34.5kV electric distribution line, to the extent that it extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Winchester, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The 3178 Line crosses State-owned land, known as Pisgah State Park, operated by the N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR), between Structures #27D and #30, for which no prior crossing license was identified, either owing to possible oversight or because the line was constructed before the State took ownership, but which will be licensed as a result of this application.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On August 21, 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 3178 Line, an existing three phase 34.5kV electric distribution line, to the extent that it extends over and across State-owned land in Winchester, 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 3178 Line, which is an existing three phase 34.5kV electric distribution line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and administered by NHDNCR in Winchester. Eversource states that the exact construction date of the current line is unknown; however, based on easement records, an electrical line right-of-way has existed at the subject location since 1912.

The proposed project for the 3178 Line encompasses replacing the 3 existing steel lattice structures with single pole steel structures. The 3 existing distribution conductors and 1 neutral conductor 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 three 1/0 CU 7-strand bare conductors. The one 7 No. 6 AW neutral wire will be vertically attached above the conductors.

The scope of this project begins in Winchester where the 3178 Line crosses the State-owned land known as Pisgah State Park, in Winchester between Structures #27D and #30, which span commences within a pull off parking area located along the north side of NH Route 119, approximately 400 feet east from the Ashuelot River Reservoir Dam. The span extends approximately 1,350 feet east to the property boundary of Map 16, Lot 17 in the Town of Winchester.

The State-owned land span between Structures #27D and #30 comprises two areas of State-owned land, 594.5 feet and 457.6 feet, totaling 1,052.1 feet.

**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) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the structure replacements described in this application. A NHDES SPN application has been submitted (NHDES SPN Application # 2023-03067) and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction within jurisdictional areas.

**C. Property Rights**

According to Eversource, abutters to the NHDNCR/State-owned land in Winchester 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 Winchester.

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.

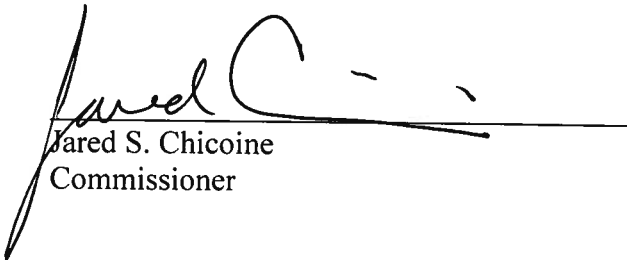
The conductor cable clearance requirements were met using the NESC based on the design conditions at 212° F for all crossings within this petition. This scenario was the

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.

## 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 State land in Winchester, 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 Winchester, 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.