

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

VERMONT TRANSCO LLC

APPLICATION NO. CRE 2024 –011

**APPLICATION OF VERMONT TRANSCO LLC
FOR A LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A FIBER OPTIC CABLE
OVER AND ACROSS STATE-OWNED LAND AND PUBLIC WATERS
IN HINSDALE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Vermont Transco LLC (“VT Transco”) hereby submits an Application to the New Hampshire Department of Energy (the “Department”) for a license to construct and maintain a fiber optic cable over and across State-owned land and public waters in Hinsdale, New Hampshire (the “Project”). In support of this Application, VT Transco states as follows:

1. VT Transco operates the bulk transmission system throughout most of Vermont, serving the delivery needs of Vermont’s distribution utilities, including Green Mountain Power Corporation (“GMP”). VT Transco also serves some areas in New Hampshire and interconnects its system with New England’s regional power grid.
2. VT Transco is engaged in ongoing efforts to install multiple lines of fiber optic cable throughout Vermont to improve communications between electrical transmission and distribution facilities. These telecommunication facilities improve the reliability of the electrical grid for VT Transco’s transmission needs as well as for Vermont distribution utilities. Telecommunication is critical in managing energy resources due to the increasing dynamics of the electric energy grid, particularly as an increasing number of renewable generation facilities are brought on line in Northern New England. The

proposed fiber optic cable installation as described in this Application is a critical component of that work.

3. The Project involves the installation of All-Dielectric Self-Supporting (“ADDS”) aerial communications fiber optic cable on existing utility structures, spanning across the Connecticut River from Hinsdale, New Hampshire, to Brattleboro, Vermont, as shown on the Overview Map included as Sheet 1 to Exhibit 1. The fiber optic cable will run along GMP’s L25 Transmission Line (the “L25 Line”). The L25 Line was originally built in the early 1930s and runs between GMP’s Vernon Road Substation in Brattleboro, Vermont, and a tap structure located in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. The public land and water crossing that is the subject of this Application was licensed in 1967 in New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) Order # 8639 (D-E4539), a copy of which is provided as Exhibit 2 to this Application. An existing fiber optic cable runs below the L25 line along the span that pertains to this Application. This fiber crossing was licensed in 2001 in PUC Order # 23,810 (DE 01-170), a copy of which is provided as Exhibit 3 to this Application.¹
4. As indicated above, the location of the public land and water crossing that is the subject of this Application is depicted on the Overview Map and Site Plans offered as Exhibit 1. The crossing location is further described below. The structure numbers referenced in the description below correspond to the structure labels provided in Exhibit 1.

¹ The PUC Orders do not include a designation for the existing transmission line that is the subject of this crossing. However, Order # 8639 stated that the proposed transmission line would span the Connecticut River from Pole 80 in New Hampshire to Pole 81 in Vermont. These are the same structures that are the subject of this Application, as explained below and as shown on site plans provided as Exhibit 1. VT Transco has confirmed that this transmission line has been designated the L25 Line. Please note that Order # 8639 erroneously states that the transmission-line crossing is from *Bellows Falls*, Vermont, to Hinsdale, New Hampshire. See Exhibit 2 at 4. The reference to *Bellows Falls* is incorrect—the crossing extends to Brattleboro, Vermont. This correction is confirmed in the subsequently issued Order # 23,810 approving the fiber crossing at this same location, which correctly states that the span extends “across the public waters of the Connecticut River in the Town of Hinsdale, New Hampshire to the Vermont State Line in *Brattleboro*, Vermont.” Exhibit 3 at 1 (emphasis added).

5. The L25 Line crosses the Connecticut River between Structure 80, which is a wooden H-frame structure located in Hinsdale, New Hampshire, and Structure 81, which is a wooden three-pole structure located in Brattleboro, Vermont. Structure 80 is located on State-owned land. As a result, the fiber optic line will extend across a narrow strip of State-owned land located between Structure 80 and the edge of the Connecticut River. The proposed fiber will be installed on the existing transmission structures. As part of the Project, an existing fiber optic line on the structures will be removed.
6. The location of structures and maximum sag conditions create the following crossing spans over the State-owned land and Connecticut River, as specified on Exhibit 1:
 - Structures 80 to 81:
 - Structure Span: 772 feet
 - Connecticut River Span: 614 feet
 - State-Owned Land Span: 55 feet
 - Structures 80 to 79:
 - Structure Span: 416 feet
 - State-Owned Land Span: 126 feet
7. All conductors and wires have been depicted on Exhibit 1 to show the minimum clearance over the State-owned land and the Connecticut River at maximum sag conditions. VT Transco relied on FEMA flood maps when establishing flood elevations for the water-crossing spans, as provided in Note 3 to Sheet 2 of Exhibit 1.
8. VT Transco will maintain and operate the clearance of the crossing at a height no less than what is required by the 2023 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1), which is (a) 25.5 feet for fiber optic cable over water areas suitable for all boating including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams and canals with an

unobstructed surface area of 20-to-200 acres with respect to the Connecticut River crossing; (b) 15.5 feet for fiber optic cable over other land traversed by vehicles, such as cultivated and grazing land, forests, orchards, industrial sites, and commercial sites, regarding the State-owned land crossing between Structure 80 and the Connecticut River; and (c) 23.5 feet for fiber optic cable over track rails with respect to the State-owned land crossing between Structures 80 and 79. The actual minimum height over the State-owned land and Connecticut River exceeds the minimum NESC requirements, as depicted on Sheets 2 and 3 of Exhibit 1.

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) regulates the Connecticut River as navigable waters. The scope of work discussed in this Application at the river crossing location has been authorized by the USACE (File Number: NAE-2024-01835) under the USACE General Permit #6 of the Vermont and New Hampshire General Permits. The Project does not require any permits from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”).
10. As detailed above, the Project will be designed and installed in compliance with all applicable NESC provisions and USACE and NHDES regulations.
11. The fiber installation work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements, thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of affected property owners.
12. VT Transco submits that the license Application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of public waters because safe clearances will be maintained at all times and appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of recreational users will be undertaken while the work is performed.

WHEREFORE, VT Transco respectfully requests that the Department:

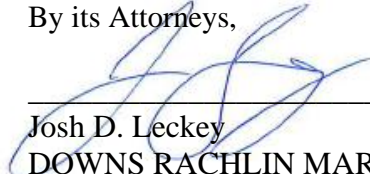
- A. Find that the license Application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters and subject land as the crossing that is the subject of this Application; and
- B. Grant VT Transco a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across State-owned land and public waters as described in this Application.

Dated at Burlington, Vermont, this 12th day of December, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

VERMONT TRANSCO LLC

By its Attorneys,



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