

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

VERMONT TRANSCO LLC

LICENSE NO. CRE 2024-011 – REVISED

March 7, 2025

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain a Fiber Optic Cable
Over and Across Public Waters and State Owned Land in Hinsdale**

This license is granted to Vermont Transco LLC to construct and maintain a fiber optic cable that will run along with Green Mountain Power Corporation's (GMP) L25 Line, which is an existing 115 kV line that crosses public waters and State-owned land in Hinsdale, New Hampshire all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The L25 Line was previously licensed in 1967 in New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") Order No. 8639 (D-E4539). An existing fiber optic cable runs below the L25 line, along the span that pertains to this application. This fiber optic cable crossing was licensed in 2001 in PUC Order No. 23,810 (DE 01-170).

I. BACKGROUND

On October 22, 2024,¹ Vermont Transco LLC filed an application with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to construct and maintain a fiber optic cable that will run along with Green Mountain Power's (GMP) L25 Line, which is an existing 115 kV line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and State-owned land in Hinsdale, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On January 28, 2025, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a

¹ The Company filed amended applications on October 31, 2024; November 18, 2024; December 12, 2024; and January 24, 2025.

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 (www.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 Vermont Transco LLC's fiber optic cables, which attach to GMP's existing L25 Line that extends over and across public waters of the Connecticut River and land owned by the State of New Hampshire and administered by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR) in Hinsdale. GMP's 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 proposed project for the L25 Line encompasses installing 1 new All-Dielectric Self-Supporting (ADSS) 144 communications fiber optic cable, which will be attached vertically below the existing power conductors, as well as removing 1 existing fiber optic cable that is also attached vertically below the power conductors. The new fiber optic cable specifications detailed under the Cable Schedule will be installed onto the existing structures.

The scope of this project begins in Brattleboro, Vermont at Structure #81. Structure 81 is located in the center of a densely wooded area approximately 50 feet east of the railroad crossing at the southwest corner of the Riverside Drive loop in Brattleboro, and then from that point, approximately 367 feet southeast. From Structure #81, the L25 line traverses the Connecticut River in an easternly fashion by approximately 772 feet, connecting to Structure #80 in Hinsdale, New Hampshire. Structure #80 is located approximately 1,637 feet north of

the intersection of Old Brattleboro Road and Brattleboro Road (Route 119), then approximately 150 feet west of Brattleboro Road. Old Brattleboro Road and Brattleboro Road are located entirely in New Hampshire. From Structure #80, the L25 Line then continues to span eastwardly by approximately 416 feet, crossing State-owned land administered by NHDNCR (the rail trail) and Brattleboro Road, connecting to Structure #79. Structure #79 is located approximately 200 feet east of Brattleboro Road.

The L25 Line spans 772.0 feet between Structures #81 and #80, with 614.0 feet crossing over and above the public waters of the Connecticut River and 55 feet crossing State-owned land in Hinsdale.

The L25 Line spans 416.0 feet between Structures #80 and #79 with 126.0 feet crossing State-owned land in Hinsdale.

B. Regulatory Requirements

Vermont Transco LLC 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; however, Vermont Transco LLC states that the project does not require any permits from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regulates the subject portion of the Connecticut River as navigable waters, and the scope of work discussed in this application at the subject crossing location has been authorized by the USACE (File Number: NAE-2024-01835) under USACE General Permit #6 of the Vermont and New Hampshire General Permits. This licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the maintenance project.

C. Property Rights

According to Vermont Transco LLC, abutters to the public waters of the Connecticut River and land owned by the State of New Hampshire will not be affected by the proposed project, because

the current fiber optic cable is being removed and a new All-Dielectric Self-Supporting (ADSS) 144 communications fiber optic cable is being installed 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. Vermont Transco LLC 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 Connecticut River and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Hinsdale.

The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in conformance with N.H. Admin. Rule En 306 and applicable sections of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) C2-2023.

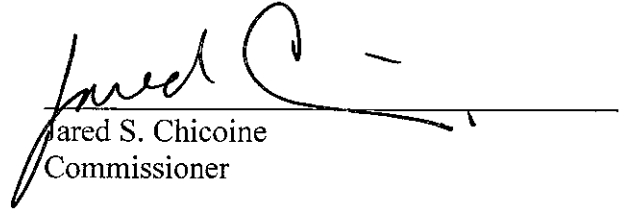
The fiber optic cable clearance requirements were met using the NESC Rule 250D based on the design conditions for all crossings within this application. This scenario was the governing condition, which yielded the greatest sag and lowest clearance.

III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Vermont Transco LLC is authorized pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain fiber optic cables over and across the public waters of the Connecticut River and land owned by the State of New Hampshire and State land in Hinsdale, 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 Hinsdale, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 7th day of day of March 2025.



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.