

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY**

**LICENSE NO. CRE 2024-012**

**January 9, 2025**

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines  
Over and Across Public Waters in Hinsdale**

This license is granted to New England Power Company (NEP) to construct and maintain its A1/B2 Line, an existing 69kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters in Hinsdale, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The A1/B2 Line was originally licensed by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission in 1953 in Order #6217, the Order identifies the A1/B2 Line as V-W 1908.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On October 24, 2024,<sup>1</sup> NEP filed an application with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to construct and maintain its A1/B2 Line, an existing 69kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters in Hinsdale, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On December 27, 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

---

<sup>1</sup> The Company filed an amended application on December 10, 2024, and another on December 20, 2024.

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 NEP's A1/B2 Line, which is a 69kV overhead electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Connecticut River in Hinsdale. The NEP A1/B2 line was originally built in 1909-1910.

The proposed project for the A1/B2 Line encompasses replacing the four existing wood structures with weathered steel structures, replacing the existing six end-of-life conductors with ACSS 795 MCM 26/7 conductors, and replacing the existing one shield wire with two ½-inch OPGW. The OPGW will be vertically attached above the dual-circuit conductors with the conductors being the lowest cable for clearance design. Although the existing A1/B2 Line is currently operated and maintained at 69 kV, this project has been designed to operate at 115 kV for future needs.

The scope of this project begins in Hinsdale, NH. at renumbered Structure #7 where the A1/B2 Line traverses southeasterly crossing the Connecticut River to renumbered Structure #8 in Vernon, VT. The A1/B2 Line then continues southeast again crossing the Connecticut River in Vernon, VT., from Structure #41 then northeast to Structure #42 in Hinsdale, NH.

In Vernon, Vt., from the intersection of Fort Bridgman Road (Route 142), head approximately 1,264 feet northeast to where the A1/B2 Line crosses Stebbins Road and then approximately 580 feet northwest to Structure #8. The A1/B2 Line then spans 821 feet northwest crossing the Connecticut River into Hinsdale to Structure #7.

In Hinsdale, NH., from the intersection of South Parrish Road and Northfield Road (Route 63), head approximately 2,761 feet northwest to where the A1/B2 Line crosses

Northfield Road and then approximately 1,249 feet southwest to Structure #42. The A1/B2 Line spans 757 feet crossing the Connecticut River to Structure #41 in Vernon, VT.

The first public water crossing between Structures #7 and #8 spans 821.0 feet with 460.0 feet over the Connecticut River.

The second public water crossing between Structures #41 and #42 spans 757.0 feet with 475.0 feet over the Connecticut River.

### **B. Regulatory Requirements**

NEP 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, NEP states that New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”) issued an Alteration of Terrain permit for the scope of the work discussed in the application on January 24, 2024. In addition, NHDES issued a Standard Dredge and Fill permit for this scope of work on January 12, 2024. NEP also obtained coverage under a Shoreland Permit by Notification filed with NHDES on March 16, 2023, for the scope of the work discussed in this application.

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 public water crossing was licensed under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #6.

### **C. Property Rights**

According to NEP, abutters to the Connecticut River in Hinsdale 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. NEP 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 in Hinsdale.

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) C2-2023.

The conductor cable clearance requirements were met using the NESC based on the design conditions at 392° F for all crossings within this application. This scenario was the governing condition, which yielded the greatest sag and lowest clearance.

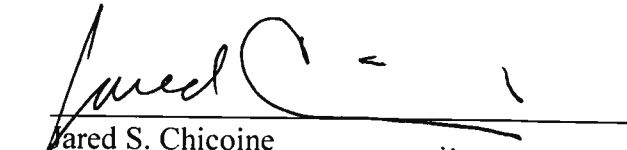
NEP will maintain and operate the clearance of the crossing at a height no less than what is required by the 2023 National Electrical Safety Code, which is 36.1 feet for 115 kV conductors over water areas suitable for all boating including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams and canals with an unobstructed surface area of over 200-to-2000 acres with respect to the Connecticut River crossing. The actual minimum heights over the Connecticut River exceed the minimum NESC requirements

**II. DEPARTMENT DECISION**

NEP is authorized pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters of the Connecticut River 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 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.