

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2024-014

March 27, 2025

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters and State-Owned Land in
Tilton, Belmont, and Laconia**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its J125 Line, which is an existing three phase 115 kV line, an underbuilt 34.5 kV distribution line designated as the 3548 Line, and an underbuilt 34.5 kV distribution line designated as the 337 Line at crossings of State-owned land in Tilton, Belmont, and Laconia, and public waters in Tilton and Belmont, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation.

The public water crossing between pole #337/91Y and J125/337 Structure #92 was previously licensed under PUC Order #24,271 (DE 02-205). The State-owned land crossings were not previously licensed, owing to an apparent oversight. As a result of this application, all the crossings will be licensed.

I. BACKGROUND

On December 4, 2024,¹ 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 J125 Line, an existing three phase 115kV line, an underbuilt 34.5 kV distribution line

¹ The Company filed amended applications on December 24, 2024; January 3, 2025, January 13, 2025; January 24, 2025; and January 31, 2025.

designated as the 3548 Line, and an underbuilt 34.5 kV distribution line designated as the 337 Line to the extent that these lines extend over and across public waters in Tilton and Belmont, and State-owned land in Tilton, Belmont, and Laconia, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On February 3, 2025, 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) 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 J125 Line, an existing three phase 115kV line, an underbuilt 34.5 kV distribution line designated as the 3548 Line, and an underbuilt 34.5 kV distribution line designated as the 337 Line, that extend over and across public waters of the Winnepesaukee River in Tilton and Belmont, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire.

The Eversource J125 line was originally built in 2002 and runs between Webster Substation in Franklin and Laconia Substation in Laconia. The 3548 and 337 Lines were in existence at the time the J125 Line was constructed and were incorporated onto the new J125 structures in an underbuilt, double circuited configuration.

The proposed project is to replace the existing original wooden structures with weathered steel structures. J125/3548 Line Structures #61 to #63, J125/337 Line Structure #81, Structures #90 to #93, and Structures #138 to #141 will be replaced and will be located within 10' of the existing structure locations. J125/337 Line Structure #82 is an existing steel structure that was installed in 2002 and is the subject of this application to be licensed as a

result. The J125 Line's existing three conductors (ACSR, 795 kcmil 26/7) and single OPGW (12 Fiber), having the specifications indicated on the Cable Schedule of Exhibits 2 through 10, and the 3548 Line's six conductors (ACSR, 477 kcmil 26/7) and single neutral wire (ACSR, 4/0 6/1), having the specifications indicated on the Cable Schedule of exhibit 2, and the 3548 Line's three conductors (ACSR, 477 kcmil 26/7), and single neutral wire (ACSR, 4/0 6/1), having the specifications indicated on the Cable Schedule of exhibits 3 to 4, and the 337 Line's three conductors (ACSR, 477 kcmil 26/7), and single neutral wire (ACSR, 4/0 6/1), having the specifications indicated on the Cable Schedule of Exhibit 5 through 10, shall all remain unchanged and will be relocated to the new replacement structures.

Although the line extends from a substation in Webster to a substation in Laconia, the relevant scope of this project involves only four sections of the line, and only a portion of each of the four sections requires a license. The first section is located in Tilton between structures #60 and 63. Structure #60 is located in an Eversource Right-of-Way (ROW), approximately 1,915 feet southeast from where the J125/3548 Line crosses School Street — which is approximately 480 feet southwest from the intersection of School Street and Country Meadows Drive. From Structure #60, the J125/3548 Line crosses State-owned land administered by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and extends 1,613 feet northeast to Structure #63. Structure #63 is located in the same ROW but on the northeast side of interstate 93, approximately 3,530 feet north of the Rt. 3 overpass in Tilton. The State-owned land over which the line crosses begins approximately 195 feet northeast of Structure #60 and ends approximately 59 feet northeast of Structure #62. Structure #62 is approximately 1,186 feet northeast of Structure #60. Consequently, the first portion of the project requires a license to cross approximately 1,025 feet over State-owned land.

The second relevant section is between Structures #81 and #82 in Tilton. Structure #81 is located approximately 325 northeast of the intersection of Laconia Road and Noyes Road. Structure #82 is approximately 489 feet northeast from Structure #81 and is approximately 445 feet north from the intersection of Noyes Road and Wolf Road. The line between these structures spans approximately 489 feet. Approximately 116 feet of this span crosses State-owned land administered by NHDOT, which land consists of an active railroad. Consequently, the second section requires a license to cross over the railroad at this location.

The third relevant section runs between Structure #90 in Tilton and Structure #93 in Belmont. Structure #90 is located on the corner of Ashuelot Drive, approximately 203 feet northeast from the intersection of Ashuelot Drive and Canaan Way in Tilton. The State-owned land in Tilton is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and starts approximately 297 feet northeast of Structure #90 and continues approximately 638 feet northeast to Structure #91, which is located on the south side of Silver Lake Road. From Structure #91, the J125/337 Line extends approximately 144 feet northeast over the public waters of the Winnepesaukee River to where the northeast bank of the Winnepesaukee River meets the boundary of State-owned land administered by NHDES. The boundary is approximately 370 feet southwest of Structure #93. Structure #93 is located in an Eversource ROW approximately 294 feet northwest from the intersection of Grey Rocks Road and Union Road in Belmont. Consequently, the third section requires a license to cross approximately 538 feet of State-owned land in Tilton, to cross approximately 144 feet of the Winnepesaukee River, and to cross approximately 67 feet of State-owned land in Belmont.

The last relevant section of the J125/337 Line starts in the town of Belmont at Structure #138. Structure #138 is located in an Eversource ROW approximately 900 feet northeast from where the J125/337 Line crosses Bishop Road — which is approximately 135 feet southeast of

the Mile Hill Road and Bishop Road intersection. The line continues approximately 1,908 feet northeast into Laconia, where it crosses over approximately 1,200 feet of State-owned land administered by the Community College System of New Hampshire before the line connects to Structure #142. Structure #142 is located on the northeast side of the dead end of Appleridge Road in Laconia. The State-owned land boundary begins where the Belmont town line and the Laconia town line meet — which is approximately 501 feet northeast of Structure #138. The State-owned property boundary ends approximately 205 feet southwest of Structure #142. This section of the line requires a license, then, to cross over approximately 1,200 feet of State-owned land in Laconia.

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) Standard Dredge and Fill Permit (SDF) will be required for temporary and permanent impacts associated with the structure replacements described in this application. NHDES SDF and Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) applications have been submitted and permits received (NHDES SDF Permit #2024-00681, and Shoreland PBN 2024-03048, 2024-03049, and 2024-03050).

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

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the Winnepesaukee River in Tilton and Belmont, and State-owned land, administered by NHDOT, NHDES, and CCSNH in Tilton, Belmont, and

Laconia 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 the Winnepesaukee River in Tilton and Belmont, or the State land parcels in Tilton, Belmont, and Laconia.

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.

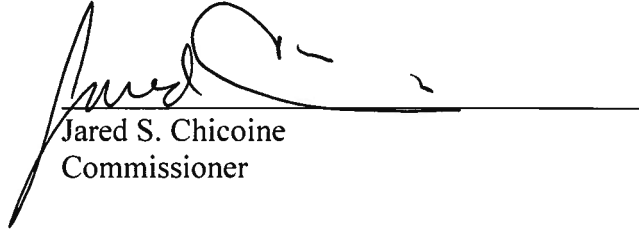
The neutral conductor cable clearance requirements were met using the NESC based on the design conditions at 15° F, 1 inch of ice, and 40 mph winds for all crossings within this petition. The tap conductor cable clearance requirements were met using 212° F for the crossing over State-owned land in Tilton. These scenarios were the governing conditions, which yielded the greatest sag and lowest clearance.

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 public waters of the Winnepesaukee River in Tilton and Belmont, and State land in Tilton, Belmont, and Laconia, 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 Tilton, Belmont, and Laconia, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 27th day of February 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.