

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

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

DOCKET No. CR 2022-

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS PUBLIC WATERS IN MERRIMACK AND
LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “the Company”), a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire, hereby petitions the Department of Energy (“Department”), for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters in Litchfield and Merrimack, New Hampshire. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the requirements for reasonable service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource H123 Line, originally constructed in 2012, over and across public waters in Litchfield and Merrimack, New Hampshire. The public water crossing at the Merrimack River that is included in this petition was previously licensed in 2012 under DE-11-257 (Order No. 25,333).

2. As part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource determined that the single remaining existing wood structure at the Merrimack River crossing, Structure 201, needs to be replaced promptly to continue to function safely and reliably. This structure will be replaced with a weathering steel equivalent that will be located within 10’ of the original structure location. Structure 202, being the other structure at the subject crossing span on the west side of the Merrimack River, was installed as a galvanized steel structure in 2012 and licensed as such under

DE 11-257 (Order No. 25,333). The H123's existing three conductors, and two shield wires between Structures 201 and 202, whose specifications are identified on Exhibit 2, will be unchanged in the course of relocation to the replacement steel structures.

3. The location of the public water crossing, which is the subject of this petition, is depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and a more detailed location description is as follows:

Exhibit 2 – The H123 Line crosses the Merrimack River in the Towns of Litchfield and Merrimack between Structures 201 and 202, which span commences approximately 1,900 feet west from where the H123 Line crosses Charles Bancroft Highway in Litchfield, which is approximately 275 feet north from the intersection of Charles Bancroft Highway and Cummings Drive in Litchfield. The crossing continues approximately 814 feet west to the west bank of the Merrimack River, at a point that is approximately 2,500 feet east from where Eversource transmission line (3195 Line) crosses US Route 3 (Daniel Webster Highway) in Merrimack, which Rte. 3 crossing location is between BEST Energy Services located at 237 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack to the south and the entrance to Spraying Systems Co. located at 243 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, to the north. The H123 turns northerly just west of Structure 202 (see Exhibit 1) and does not cross any notable landmarks in proximity to the subject span on the westerly side of the Merrimack River.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this petition are as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibit 2.

5. The location of structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing span:

- (a) Public water: Merrimack River (Exhibit 2)
 - i. Structures: 201 to 202
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 814.2
 - iii. Merrimack River Span (ft): 555.1

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water crossing. Flood elevation for the Merrimack River crossing span used in calculating clearance is based on FEMA flood map data as indicated in Note 3 to Exhibit 2.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1) which is 30.1' for 115 kV conductor over waters suitable for sailboating including lakes, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams, and canals with an unobstructed surface area of over 20 to 200 acres. The actual minimum height over the public water is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 and exceeds the respective minimum requirements.

8. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wetland statutory permit by notification (SPN) and Shoreland Permit Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the structure replacement and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction.

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does regulate the subject portion of the Merrimack River as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this petition at the subject crossing location will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4 and which licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the maintenance project.

10. The structure replacement work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners affected by the project scope. When wires are being transferred, Eversource will ensure the waterbody is clear of any pedestrians before work commences. Additionally, a guard structure will be utilized when wires are being transferred from the old structure to the new, to limit the possibilities of the wire falling into the river and protecting the general public.

11. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the 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 maintenance work is performed.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public water crossing which is the subject of this petition;

2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public water described in this petition;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 2nd day of May, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
By Its Attorney



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