

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-013

May 19, 2022

**Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across
State-Owned Land and Public Water in Winchester, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to modify and maintain its 379 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters in Winchester. The public water crossing at the Ashuelot River that is included in this petition was previously licensed in 1970 under DE 5812 (Order No. 9,885). The state-owned land crossing over the Ashuelot Rail Trail, was licensed through the prior owner, Boston and Maine Corporation, but has not been previously licensed by the State of New Hampshire owing to the State taking ownership of the property after the line was originally built.

I. BACKGROUND

On April 21, 2022,¹ Eversource filed a petition with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to modify, reconstruct and maintain its 379 Line, a 345 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land and public waters in Winchester. On April 29, 2022, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the petition be approved, and a license granted, based on the petition filings, applicable statutes, rules, NESC requirements, and land

¹ The Company filed a replacement petition on April 26, 2022.

ownership, as well as public need, safety, and impact. The petition 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 379 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and public waters of the Ashuelot River in Winchester.

The 379 Line crosses the Ashuelot River in Winchester between Structures 531 and 532, commencing approximately 1,700 feet west from where the 379 Line crosses NH Route 10 (Keene Road) in Winchester. Said point is approximately 2,800 feet north from the intersection of NH Route 10 (Keene Road) and Mechanic Street. The crossing continues west approximately 135 feet to the west bank of the Ashuelot River, which is approximately 170 feet east from where the 379 Line crosses Old Westport Road in Winchester. Said point being approximately 2,600 feet north from the intersection of Old Westport Road and Old Spofford Road in Winchester.

The 379 Line crosses State-owned land encompassing a portion of the Ashuelot Rail Trail in Winchester between Structures 532 and 533 commencing approximately 9 feet east of Structure 532. Said point is approximately 125 feet west of where the 379 Line crosses Old Westport Road in Winchester. Said point is approximately 2,600 feet north from the intersection of Old Westport Road and Old Spofford Road in Winchester. The span continues west approximately 76 feet, where it ends approximately 1,300 feet east from where the 379 Line crosses Old Spofford Road at approximately 2,400 feet north from the intersection of Old Spofford Road and Old Westport Road in Winchester.

The length of span between Structures 531 and 533 is 1,218.4 feet. The length of span over and across public water is 135.6 feet. The length of span over and across State-owned land is 76 feet.

The 379 Line's existing three phase conductors, single OPGW wire, and single static wire between Structures 531 to 533 will be unchanged. The conductors on the replacement of Structures 532 and 533 in 2018 were not changed in the course of relocation to the replacement steel structures.

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 petition, Eversource stated that it will obtain 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.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the NHDOT land and the Ashuelot River in Winchester 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 petition, 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 State land parcel or the public waters of the Ashuelot River in Winchester.

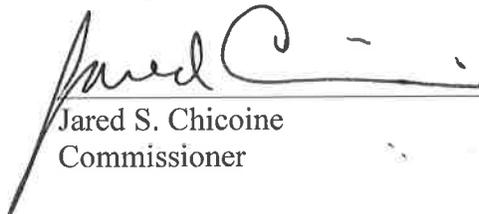
The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using a 100-year flood level, which is a more conservative analysis than the NESC 10-year flood clearance requirement.

III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across State land and the public waters of the Ashuelot River in Winchester, as described in its petition and depicted in its filings and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. Based on the factual representations set forth in the petition 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 subject land and public waters at the crossing locations in Winchester, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the petition is approved.

We require a copy of this license to be provided to the Town Clerk of Winchester by first class mail no later than May 24, 2022 with a signed affidavit of compliance filed with the Department no later than 10 days following the issuance of the license.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 19th day of May, 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner