

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-030

December 20, 2022

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters in Berlin, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its W179 Line, an existing 115kV electrical transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Berlin, New Hampshire. The W179 Line was previously licensed in 1976 under DE 76-22 (Order No. 12,219).

I. BACKGROUND

On December 6, 2022, 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 W179 Line, an existing 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Berlin, New Hampshire. On December 14, 2022, 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 W179 Line, an existing 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters in Berlin, New Hampshire. The W179 Line crosses the public waters of the Androscoggin River in the Town of Berlin between original structures 61 and 62 (new structure numbers 62 and 63), which span commences approximately 690 feet northwest from where the W179 line crosses East Main Street in Berlin, which is approximately 610 feet south from the intersection of Industrial Park Drive and East Main Street. The public water crossing extends northwest approximately 276 feet to the west side of the Androscoggin River, which is approximately 283 feet west to where the W179 Line crosses NH Route 16, which is approximately 760 feet south from the intersection of NH Route 16 and Victoria Lane in Berlin, NH.

The location of Structures 62 to 63 in this application creates a total span of 824 feet with a span of 276 feet crossing the Androscoggin River.

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, Eversource stated that it will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit Notification (SPN) and an NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) for the work planned under this application in relation to temporary impacts to wetlands of the Androscoggin River prior to the commencement of construction.

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

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the public waters of the Androscoggin River will not be affected by the proposed project, as the structure replacements, conductor replacements, and OPGW installation work will be accomplished 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 Androscoggin River in Berlin, NH.

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 public waters of the Androscoggin River in Berlin, NH, 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 subject public waters at the crossing locations in Berlin, NH, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 20th day of December 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner