

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-004

March 25, 2022

**License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across
State-Owned Land and Public Waters in Bow, Concord and Pembroke**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its P145 Line, an existing 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters in Bow, Concord and Pembroke.

I. BACKGROUND

On February 15, 2022, Eversource filed a petition with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to construct and maintain its P145 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land and public waters in Bow, Concord and Pembroke. On February 28, 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 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 P145 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters of the Merrimack River, Turtle Town Pond and the Soucook River in Bow, Concord and Pembroke.

The proposed project for the P145 encompasses structure replacement and reconductoring. All eight structures at the State-owned land crossing span will be renumbered and replaced with weathering steel equivalents. The project also includes replacement and renumbering of 11 structures supporting four public water crossing spans. The replacement structures will be replaced with weathering steel and renumbered.

New and renumbered Structures 38, 39, 48, 49, 65 to 71, 125, 126, and 128 will be installed within 10 feet of the existing locations. New and renumbered Structure 63 will be moved approximately 100 feet north, and new Structure 64 will be moved approximately 20 feet south to account for the permanent removal of existing Structures 65 and 67, both of which are currently located on State-owned land. Additionally, new and renumbered Structure 72 is being moved 20 feet north to move away from steep slopes for ease and safe construction and future maintenance; new and renumbered Structure 127 is being moved 20 feet north to minimize impacts to adjacent wetlands during construction and future maintenance; new and renumbered Structure 29 is being moved 20 feet south to avoid potential impacts to nearby sensitive environmental resources during construction and future maintenance.

The length of span between renumbered Structures 38 and 39 is 897' and the length of span over and across the Merrimack River in Bow and Concord is 579'. The length of span between renumbered Structures 48 and 49 is 464' and the length of span over and across the

Soucook River in Concord and Pembroke is 53'. The length of span between renumbered Structures 63 and 72 is 4,236' and the length of span over and across State-owned land in Pembroke is 3,522'. The length of span between renumbered Structures 72 and 72 is 754' and the length of span over and across the Soucook River in Pembroke is 111'. The length of span between renumbered Structures 125 and 129 is 2,251' and the length of span over and across the Turtle Town Pond in Concord is 1,816'.

The Merrimack River crossing between new Structure 38 and 39 (old Structures 40 and 41) was licensed in a batch petition in docket DE 76-22 pursuant to Order No. 12,219, and the public water crossing over Turtle Town Pond between new Structures 125 to 129 (old Structures 131 to 135) is licensed in a batch petition in docket DE 94-272 pursuant to Order No. 21,817. The remaining crossings that are the subject of this petition comprising State-owned land in Pembroke and two spans across the Soucook River have not been previously licensed likely owing to oversight.

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. Eversource will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit Notification (SPN) for temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the construction and installation of new of structures. A NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be obtained for the work planned under this petition in relation to temporary impacts to wetlands, and the shoreland buffer to the Merrimack River, the Soucook River and Turtle Town Pond prior to the commencement of construction.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, 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.

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 in Bow, Concord and Pembroke or the public waters of the Merrimack River, Turtle Town Pond and Soucook River in Bow, Concord, and Pembroke.

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 the public waters in Bow, Concord and Pembroke 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 Bow, Concord and Pembroke, 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 Bow and Pembroke and the City Clerk of Concord by first class mail no later than March 30, 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 25th day of March, 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner