

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2022-024

November 8, 2022

**License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across State Owned Land and Public Waters in Hinsdale**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its 379 Line, a 345 kV existing electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters in Hinsdale. The public water crossing at the Connecticut River was previously licensed in 1969 under D-E5643 (Order No. 9728).

I. BACKGROUND

On October 24, 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 379 Line, a 345 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land and public waters in Hinsdale. On November 4, 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 379 Line a 345 KV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters of Connecticut River in Hinsdale. The 379 Line crosses the public waters of the Connecticut River and state-owned land, encompassing a rail trail that runs along the east side of the Connecticut River in the Town of Hinsdale and crosses into the town of Vernon, Vermont from structures 592 to 594. Which span commences immediately southwest of where the 379 Line crosses Brattleboro Road (aka NH Route 119), which is approximately 2,200 feet west of the intersection of Dexter Road. The water crossing extends southwest to the western bank of the Connecticut River in the Town of Vernon, Vermont, which is approximately 680 feet to the Vernon Substation that is located just north of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Facility. The crossing contains two upland areas, one of which is state land crossing included in this application, between Structures 592 and 593.

The location of Structures 592 to 593 creates a total span of 2,089.4 feet, with a span of 76.9 feet over and across state-owned land.

The location of Structures 592 to 594 creates a total span of 4,039.2 feet, with a span of 2,675.9 feet over and across the Connecticut River.

Eversource is replacing an existing shield wire with an OPGW wire between the Vernon Substation in Vernon, Vermont and the Northfield Mountain Substation in Northfield, Massachusetts. The OPGW wire will be located in part on the 381 Line, a 345kV line owned and operated by Eversource from the Northfield Mountain Substation to 381 Line, Structure 1 (which portion of new OPGW is the subject of a separate application filed concurrently herewith in

CRE 2022-025) and in part on the 379 Line, commencing at Structure 592 and continuing west to the Vernon Substation. The portion of the new OPGW located upon the 379 Line crosses the Connecticut River and state-owned land, which crossings are the subject of this application. The existing pole top ADSS shield wire will be removed and replaced with an OPGW wire.

Three existing phase conductors and the existing static wire at the crossing spans shall remain unchanged under this license.

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. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit Notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with temporary work areas at specific structure locations and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Due to the aerial nature of the work, temporary work areas within the protected shoreland area on either side of the Connecticut River are not necessary, thus a NHDES Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) is not required.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does regulate the subject portion of the Connecticut River as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this application at the crossing location is covered through Self-Verification process under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4, provided that there will be no decrease in existing clearances, which is the case with the scope of the contemplated project.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the NHDOT land and the Connecticut River in Hinsdale will not be affected by the proposed project, because the OPGW installation work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements.

D. Service to the Public and the Effect on Public Rights

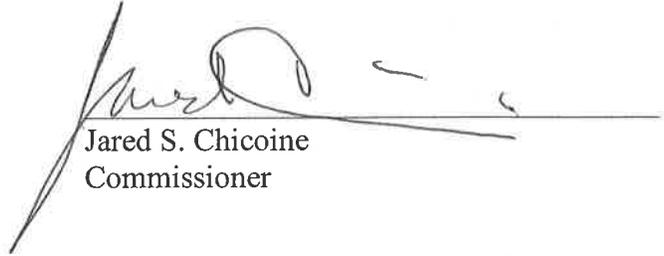
According to the application, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the State land and public waters of Connecticut River in Hinsdale.

Wire specifications and loading conditions to establish maximum sag for the crossing spans that are the subject of this application are as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibit 2 submitted by ES. Flood elevation for the Connecticut River crossing span used in calculating clearance is based on the max operating elevation of the Vernon Dam. Per NESC (note 17 to Table 232-1) for controlled impoundments, the surface area and corresponding clearances shall be based upon the design high water level.

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 public water in Hinsdale, 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 service to the public, 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 Hinsdale, as required for approval under RSA 371:17. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 8th day of November
2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

