

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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

**DOCKET No. DE 20-131**

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A  
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN  
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS THE ASHUELOT RIVER IN KEENE,  
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 Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across certain public waters in the City of Keene. 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 D108 Line, over and across the public waters of the Ashuelot River in Keene, New Hampshire. These crossings have not been previously licensed by the PUC, either because the locations did not constitute public waters at the time of construction or owing to oversight but will be fully licensed pursuant to this petition. The locations of the public water crossing spans which are the subject of this petition are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1.

2. Eversource is commencing a project to effectively rebuild the D108 Line between North Keene substation in Keene, to Emerald Street Substation in Keene. The rebuild will entail structure replacements as detailed under this petition, reconductoring the three existing conductors according to the cable schedule on Exhibits 2 and 3, replacement of the two existing shield wires with communications cable to enhance communications functionality as part of Eversource’s

ongoing reliability initiatives, and elimination of one existing structure, which project scope encompasses the crossing locations which are the subject of this petition. In addition, the structures on the D108 line are being re-numbered as described in greater detail in Section 3 hereof.

3. Existing Structures 289 (new Str. 11), 290 (new Str. 13), 291 (new Str. 14) and 293 (new Str. 15) which are depicted on Exhibits 2, 3 & 4 are 66 year old original wood structures that have been subjected to environmental damage and require replacement to continue to function safely and reliably. Those four structures will be replaced with weathered steel structures as depicted on Exhibit 4. Structure 289.5 (new Str. 12) is presently a weathered steel replacement of the original wood structure that was accomplished in 2017 without obtaining a license and is also depicted on Exhibit 4. Existing Structure 292 will be removed and not replaced as part of the rebuild project on the D108.

4. New Str. 11 will be relocated approximately 12' to enable the workspace to avoid wetland impacts. New Strs. 13 and 15 will be relocated approximately 5' and New str. 14 will be relocated approximately 10' from its current location.

5. The design and proposed construction of the replacement structures, reconductoring and communications cable installation for the D108 Line over the Ashuelot River are in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings, attached as Exhibits 2 through 4.

6. Reconductoring and communications specification and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossings that are the subject of this petition are as indicated on the Structure and Profile Details of Exhibits 2 through 4.

7. The location of the structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing spans:

- I. Ashuelot River: Keene (Exhibit 2)
  - i. Structures: 11 to 13
  - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1045.6'

- iii. Public Waters Span (total of 6 crossings depicted) (ft): 24.3', 96.9', 24.9', 47.9', 62.8, 64.9'

II. Ashuelot River : Keene (Exhibit 3)

- i. Structures: 14 to 15
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 571.5'
- iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 97.7'

8. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibits 2 and 3 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public waters.

9. 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 18.6' for water areas not suitable for sail boating. The actual minimum height over the public waters are depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 and 3 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

10. A 10-year flood level was established based upon FEMA flood profile maps (19P & 20P) for those areas from the FEMA Flood Insurance Study number 33005CV001A dated May 23, 2006.

11. Replacement Structures 11, 13, 14 and 15 will entail impacts requiring both a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services statutory permits by notification (SPN) and shoreland permit by notification (PBN), which SPN and PBN will be obtained before Eversource commences the project. For the prior replacement of original Str. 289.5 (new Str. 12) in 2017, a Utility Maintenance Notification (UMN) 2017-00190 was obtained.

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

13. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the public water crossing spans that are the subject of this petition would be affected by the line rebuilt activity as the D108 Line is an

existing line and the crossing span work was and will be performed fully within Eversource's existing utility easements and fee interests.

14. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of the Ashuelot River. Minimum safe clearances above the water surfaces were and will be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment by the public of the Ashuelot River will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the discussed structure replacement, reconductoring and static wire replacement with communications cable.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters as identified and described in this petition;
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 6th day of August, 2020.

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



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