

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CR 2021-023

January 28, 2022

**License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across State Owned Land in Troy, Marlborough and Keene
and Public Waters in Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey, New Hampshire**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to modify and maintain its T198 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Troy, Marlborough and Keene and public waters in Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey, New Hampshire. Segments of the T198 Line have been previously licensed (DE 94-272 under Order 21,873 as well as DE 08-112 under Order 24,904). DE 08-112 omitted two State owned land spans (Str 17-22 and Str 27-29) from the crossing spans that were licensed after-the-fact, either because the land was not in State ownership at the time or due to oversight. Those spans will be licensed hereby.

I. BACKGROUND

On November 24, 2021,¹ 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 T198 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across State-owned land in Troy, Marlborough and Keene and public waters in Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey. On December 9, 2021, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a

¹ The Company filed a replacement petition on December 2, 2021.

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 T198 Line, a 115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Troy, Marlborough and Keene, and public waters of Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey. The T198 Line maintenance project which is the subject of this petition will replace original wood structures 17-22, 27-30, 71-72, 97-98, 99-100, 110-111, 130-131, 146-147, 150-151-152 with weathering steel. The project will also replace an existing pole top shield wire with OPGW communications cable. Lastly, a second OPGW communications cable will be added to the structures opposite outer pole top. Three existing conductors and one existing ADSS wire will be unchanged and transferred to the replacement 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 asserts that environmental impacts will require permits from the NH Department of Environmental Services and that the Company will obtain these before commencing work.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the State-owned land in Troy, Marlborough and Keene and public waters in Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey 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 in Troy, Marlborough and Keene or the public waters of Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey.

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.

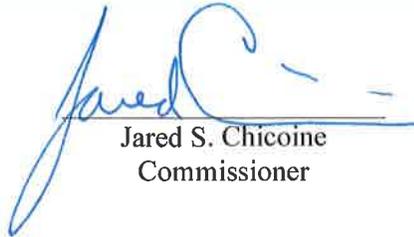
III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across State land in Troy, Marlborough and Keene and the public waters of Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey, 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 Troy, Marlborough, Keene and Swanzey, 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 Clerks of Troy, Marlborough and Swanzey and the City Clerk of Keene by first class mail no later than February 2, 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 28th day of January, 2022.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner