

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

DOCKET No. CR 2023 -

**APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS PUBLIC WATERS AND STATE OWNED
LAND IN MERRIMACK AND LITCHFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”), a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire, hereby submits an application the Department of Energy (“Department”) for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters and state-owned land in Merrimack and Litchfield, New Hampshire. In support of this application 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 H123 Line, which was originally built in 1966 between Eagle Substation in Merrimack and Reeds Ferry Substation in Merrimack. One of the public water crossings at the Merrimack River and the state-owned land crossing that is the subject of this application was previously licensed under Order 26,290 (DE 19-028). The second Merrimack River crossing was licensed in under CRE2022-014. The H123 Line will be re-licensed in its entirety as a result of this application.
2. The proposed project for the H123 encompasses a static wire to optical ground wire replacement project. The structures at the crossing locations are steel with the specification depicted and noted in the Structure Details of Exhibits 2 through 4.

3. The locations of the public water and state-owned land crossing which is the subject of this application are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and a more detailed location description is as follows:

Exhibit 2 – The H123 Line crosses the Merrimack River in the Towns of Merrimack and Litchfield between Structures 155 and 156, which span begins approximately 1,500 feet southeast of the Reeds Ferry Substation, which is located southwest of Front Street, south of a strip mall located at 515 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, and northeast from Twin Bridge Road. The public water crossing extends southeast approximately 540 feet to the west bank of the river, which is approximately 850 feet northeast from where the line crosses Naticook Ave, which is approximately 625 feet northeast to the intersection of Naticook Ave and Midway Ave.

Exhibit 3 – The H123 Line crosses the state-owned land in the Town of Litchfield between Structures 180 to 184, which span begins approximately 2,200 feet north from where the H123 Line crosses Pinecrest Road. The crossing span extends south approximately 868 feet to the boundary of Map 12, Lot 11 in Litchfield, which is approximately 1,070 north from where the H123 Line crosses Pinecrest Road, which crossing location is itself approximately 236 feet east to the intersection of Pinecrest Road and Brickyard Drive

Exhibit 4 – The H123 line crosses the Merrimack River in the Towns of Litchfield and Merrimack between Structures 201 and 202, which span commences approximately 1,900 feet west from where the H123 Line crosses Charles Bancroft Highway in Litchfield, which crossing location is approximately 275 feet north from the intersection of Charles Bancroft Highway and Cummings Drive in Litchfield. The crossing continues approximately 814 feet west to the west bank of the Merrimack River, at a point that is approximately 2,500 feet east from where Eversource's 93195 Line) crosses US Route 3 (Daniel Webster Highway) in Merrimack, which Rte. 3 crossing location is between BEST Energy Services located at 237 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack to the south and the entrance to Spraying Systems Co. located at 243 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, to the north. The H123 turns northerly just west of Structure 202 (see Exhibit 1) and does not cross any notable landmarks in proximity to the subject span on the westerly side of the Merrimack River.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this application are as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibit 2 through 4.

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

(a) Public water: Merrimack River (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 155 to 156
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 700.2
- iii. Merrimack River Span (ft): 539.9

(b) State-owned Land: Map 13, Block 166 (Exhibit 3)

- i. Structures: 181 to 184
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,214.6
- iii. State-owned Land Span (ft): 868.9

(c) Public water: Merrimack River (Exhibit 4)

- i. Structures: 201 to 202
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 813.9
- iii. Merrimack River Span (ft): 556.1

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 through 4 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water and state land crossings. Flood elevation for the Merrimack River crossing spans used in calculating clearance is based on FEMA flood map is as indicated in Note 3 to Exhibits 2 and 4.

7. 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 30.1 feet for 115 kV wires over water areas suitable for sailboating including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, tidal waters, rivers, streams, and canals with unobstructed surface area of over 20 to 200 acres in respect to the public water crossings, and is 20.1 feet for 115 kV wires over state-owned lands comprising other areas traversed by vehicles, such as cultivated, grazing, forest, and orchard lands, industrial sites, commercial sites, etc.. The actual minimum height over the public waters and state-owned land are depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 through 4 and exceeds the minimum requirements.

8. Due to the nature of the wire replacement and installation work to be done primarily by a helicopter, there will be no ground impacts associated with the project at the crossing locations, thus a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) or Shoreland Permit Notification (PBN) is not required

9. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does regulate the Merrimack River as navigable waters in these locations and the scope of work discussed in this petition at the subject crossing location will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4 and which licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the within described project.

10. The wire replacement and installation work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements, thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners affected by the project scope. When wires are being transferred, Eversource will ensure the waterbody and state-owned land is clear of any recreational users before work commences. Additionally, a guard structure will be utilized when wires are being transferred from the old structure to the new, to limit the possibilities of the wire falling into the waterbody or state-owned land to protect the general public.

11. Eversource submits that the license application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the public water and state-owned land because safe clearances will be maintained at all times and appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of recreational users will be undertaken while the maintenance work is performed.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Find that the license application herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public water and state-owned land crossing which is the subject of this application;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public water and state-owned land described in this application;

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 18th day of January, 2023.

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

By Its Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik R. Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and "R".

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