

1996, OPGW placed on 307, O-161,
ADSS placed on G-192, K-165, 372, 3891, R-169, M-183

81 NH PUC 1023
Re Public Service Company of New Hampshire
DE 96-370
Order No. 22,454
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
December 11, 1996

ORDER authorizing an electric utility to construct and maintain electric lines and fiber optic cables using existing transmission lines crossing over public waters at 10 sites around the southeastern part of the state.

1. ELECTRICITY, § 7

[N.H.] Authorization for new power lines — Installation of fiber optic cable — Use of existing transmission lines — Multiple site locations — Crossing of public waters as a factor. p. 1024.

2. CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT, § 5

[N.H.] Cable lines — Fiber optic cables — Use of existing transmission lines — Multiple site locations — Crossing of public waters as a factor — Electric utility. p. 1024.

BY THE COMMISSION:
ORDER

On November 8, 1996, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a petition pursuant to RSA 371:17 for licenses to construct and maintain electric lines and fiber optic cable at existing electric transmission line public water crossings over public waters at ten locations in the Cities of Dover, Manchester, Nashua, and Portsmouth, and in the Towns of Hooksett and Hudson, New Hampshire.

In order to meet the requirements of service to the public, PSNH has constructed and currently maintains electric transmission lines over and across certain public waters, which lines are an integral part of its electric system. The definition of public waters contained in RSA 371:17 includes, "all ponds of more than ten acres, tidewater bodies, and such streams or portions thereof as the Commission may prescribe." The Commission has determined that these subject crossings are over and across public waters.

PSNH has stated that of the ten existing transmission line crossings, nine have been previously licensed by the Commission, and one crossing, due to an oversight, has not been previously licensed. The unlicensed crossing was found during PSNH's preparation for

upgrading the reliability and capacity of the communications system used in its electric system operations.

A summary listing of the subject crossings is attached to the Petition as Appendix A, which includes for each crossing the PSNH line number and voltage, crossing location, and docket and order numbers for each crossing previously licensed. Additionally,

Appendices B through K detail the location, clearance, distances and design of the proposed fiber optic cable and existing transmission structures. PSNH has stated that as the installation methods used to place the fiber optic cable will avoid any impacts to any wetlands in the areas of the crossings, no permit is required from the Department of Environmental Service's Wetlands Board.

Page 1023

On three of the existing crossings, PSNH proposes to replace one of the existing overhead shield wires with a new shield wire containing a core of glass optical fibers, known as Fiber Optic Groundwire (OPGW) cable. The three crossings at which OPGW cable will be installed are the two Line 307 crossings of the Piscataqua River in Dover and Portsmouth, and the Line 0-161 crossing of the Merrimack River in Hooksett. The OPGW cable will be installed above the existing phase conductors and will not affect the existing clearance between the water and the lowest existing cable.

On the other seven existing crossings, PSNH proposes to install an underbuilt all-dielectric self-supporting fiber optic (ADSS) cable. These crossings consist of: Line K165 and Line G192 crossings of the Nashua River in Nashua; Line G192 crossing of the Merrimack River between Nashua and Hudson; Line 372 crossing of the Merrimack River in Manchester; two Line 3891 crossings of the Nashua River in Nashua, which PSNH considers as a single crossing; two Line R169 crossings of the Cocheco River in Dover, which PSNH also considers as a single crossing, and Line M183 crossing of the Cocheco River in Dover.

The Line G192 crossing of the Nashua River in Dover is the one crossing not previously licensed by the Commission. PSNH has stated that it owns the land in fee on both sides of the Nashua River in the location of this crossing.

[1, 2] PSNH has attested and Staff agrees that the existing 115 Kv, Line G192 crossing of the Nashua River in Nashua, and the construction of the fiber optic cables will meet or exceed the requirements of the 1993 National Electrical Safety Code. PSNH has stated that the use and enjoyment by the public of said public waters will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the overhead line and cable crossings.

The following table summarizes information regarding these crossings:

[Graphic(s) below may extend beyond size of screen or contain distortions.]

Summary of PSNH Petition Information

Line Line NHPUC NHPUC
No. Voltage Location Docket Order Appendix

307 345 kV Piscataqua River D-SF6213 10,625 B

(1) Dover

307 345 kV Piscataqua River D-SF6213 10,625 C

(1) Portsmouth

0-161 115 kV Merrimack River DE 74-153 11,580 D

(1) Hooksett

K165 115 kV Nashua River DE 74-224 11,691 E

(2) Nashua

G-192 115 kV Merrimack River DE 76-22 12,219 F

(2) Nashua/Hudson

372 34.5 kV Merrimack River DE 76-22 12,219 G

(2) Manchester

3891 34.5 kV Nashua River D-E6448 10,945 H

(2) Nashua

(3)

R1-69 115 kV Cocheco River DE 76-22 12,219 I

(2) Dover

(3)

M-183 115 kV Cocheco River DE 76-22 12,219 J

(2) Dover

G-192 115 kV Nashua River Not licensed K

(2) Nashua

(1) OPGW

(2) ADSS

(3) Two Crossings

The Commission finds the fiber optic cable crossings and electric line crossings necessary for PSNH to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. However, the public should be offered, consistent with RSA 371:20, the opportunity to respond in support of, or in opposition to, PSNH's petition.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that PSNH is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17, et seq., to construct and maintain electric lines and fiber optic cable over and across public waters in the Cities of Dover, Manchester, Nashua and Portsmouth, and the Towns of Hooksett and Hudson, New Hampshire, as well as associated plant depicted in Appendices A through K and other documentation on file with this Commission unless the Commission directs otherwise prior to the proposed effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all reconstruction hereafter performed conform to the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code and all other applicable safety standards in existence at that time; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 1601.05, PSNH shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the aforementioned Towns and Cities, such publications to be no later than December 18, 1996 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before December 25, 1996; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that PSNH notify the aforementioned Towns and Cities of this matter by serving a copy of this order on the Town/City Clerks by First Class U.S. Mail, said notification to be verified by affidavit filed on or before December 25, 1996; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than January 1, 1997; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than January 8, 1997; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective January 10, 1997, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this eleventh day of December, 1996.

EDITOR'S APPENDIX

Citations in Text

[N.H.] Re Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, DE 6448, Order No. 10,945, 58 NH PUC 28, May 15, 1973. [N.H.] Re Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, DE 74-153, Order No. 11,580, 59 NH PUC 287, Sept. 30, 1974. [N.H.] Re Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, DE 74-224, Order No. 11,691, 60 NH PUC 345, Jan. 3, 1975. [N.H.] Re Public Service Co. of New Hampshire, DE 76-22, Order No. 12,219, 61 NH PUC 97, Apr. 21, 1976