

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

**DATE:** 04 September 2008

**AT (OFFICE):** NHPUC

**FROM:** Tom Frantz, Director – Electric Division

**SUBJECT:** DE 08-102: PSNH Petition under RSA 371:17 for Water Crossing of the Ashuelot River in Keene and Swanzey

**TO:** Chairman Getz, Commissioners Below and Morrison  
Executive Director Howland

On August 7, 2008, PSNH filed a petition with the Commission under RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain electric lines and a fiber optic communications cable at locations over and across the Ashuelot River in Keene and Swanzey, New Hampshire. PSNH filed supplemental information on August 14, 2008 in response to a request from Liberty Consulting Group, a consulting firm retained by Staff to review this water crossing.

On August 20, Liberty filed a memo electronically with Staff in which Liberty discusses its review of the PSNH petition. Liberty stated that "PSNH has provided sufficient information and data to justify the new crossings and assure the Commission that the new facilities will be properly constructed, operated, and maintained." Liberty also stated that "If the proposed facilities are constructed, operated, and maintained as proposed in its filing, PSNH will provide safe and reliable service to the public based on sound engineering standards as specified in the 2007 edition of the National Electrical Code." Liberty further recommended that Staff should recommend approval of PSNH's petition to the Commission. Staff reviewed Liberty's recommendation and the PSNH petition. Based on that review, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the filing on an order *nisi* basis. Liberty's recommendation and full report are attached hereto for the record.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this recommendation or PSNH's petition.

