

**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 - 18

**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 IN MERRIMACK, 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 submits an application to the Department of Energy (“Department”), for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over public waters in Merrimack, 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 B143 Line, which was originally built in 1966. The B143 Line crosses Baboosic Brook between Structures 120 and 121, 135 and 136, 138 and 139, and 146 and 147. The spans between structures 135 and 136, and 138 and 139 were previously licensed under DE 19-146 (Order No. 26,317)¹. The spans between structures 120 and 121, and 146 and 147, of which Structure 147 was replaced from wood to weathered steel in 2017 without obtaining a license, were not previously licensed due to the line being built prior to Baboosic Brook being designates as a public waterbody, or due to an oversight as in the case of the

¹ This prior license encompassed a second public water crossing between Structure 135 and 136 located west of the crossing applied for hereunder and closer to Structure 135, as well as a public water crossing between Structures 136 and 137, but those two areas previously licensed are presently wetland areas and not distinct threads of Baboosic Brook and therefore are not included in this application for licensing consistent with recent Department policy guidance for such circumstances.

Structure 147 replacement. As result of this application, the B143 Line will be licensed in its entirety.

2. As part of its ongoing asset condition inspection program, Eversource determined that certain existing wood structures at the public water crossing spans that are the subject of the application, specifically existing Structures 120, 121, and 146 need to be replaced promptly to continue to function safely and reliably. Replacement structures will be weathering steel equivalents that will be located within 10' of the existing structure location. The B143's existing two static wires at all of the crossing locations that are the subject of this application will also be replaced with two optical ground wire (OPGW), whose specifications are identified on Exhibit 2 through 4.

3. The locations of the public water crossings which are 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– B143 Line crosses Baboosic Brook in the Town of Merrimack between Structures 120 and 121 where it crosses over two sections of Baboosic Brook within the span. The crossing commences approximately 1,250 feet south from where the line crosses Summit Road, which is approximately 540 feet west from the intersection of Summit Road and Marrett Road in Merrimack. The crossing continues south where it crosses over two sections of Baboosic Brook within the span, extending a total 279.9 feet from the point of commencement to the south bank of Baboosic Brook within the span between Structures 120 and 121.

Exhibit 3 – B143 Line crosses Baboosic Brook in the Town of Merrimack between Structures 135 and 136, which crossing is located approximately 1,340 feet south from where the line crosses Catskill Road, which is approximately 50 feet southwest from the intersection of Catskill Road and Bedford Road in Merrimack. The crossing continues south approximately 35 feet to the south bank of Baboosic Brook.

The B143 Line crosses Baboosic Brook in the Town of Merrimack between Structures 138 and 139 where it crosses three sections of Baboosic Brook within the span. This crossing commences approximately 2,500 feet south from where the line crosses Summit Road, which is approximately 540 feet west from the intersection of Summit Road and Marrett Road in Merrimack. The crossing continues south where it crosses three sections of

Baboosic Brook within the span, extending a total of 196.8 feet to the southeast bank of Baboosick Brook.

Exhibit 4 - B143 Line crosses Baboosic Brook in the Town of Merrimack between structures 146 and 147, which crossing commences approximately 824 feet south from where the line crosses Mallard Point Road, which is approximately 1,250 feet east from the intersection of Mallard Point Road and Wire Road in Merrimack. The crossing continues south approximately 38 feet to the south bank of Baboosic Brook.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this application is as indicated on Profile View and Cable Schedule of Exhibits 2 through 4. The flood elevation used to determine the clearance over Baboosic Brook is as indicated in Note 3 to Exhibits 2 through 4.

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

(a) Public Water Crossing: Baboosic Brook, Merrimack (Exhibit 2)

i. Structures: 120 to 121

ii. Structure Span (ft): 709.7

iii. Baboosic Brook Span (ft): 166.5

(b) Public Water Crossing: Baboosic Brook, Merrimack (Exhibit 3)

i. Structures: 135 to 136

ii. Structure Span (ft): 472

iii. Baboosic Brook Span (ft): 35

(c) Public Water Crossing: Baboosic Brook, Merrimack (Exhibit 3)

i. Structures: 138 to 139

ii. Structure Span (ft): 522.2

iii. Baboosic Brook Span (ft): 82.2

(d) Public Water Crossing: Baboosic Brook, Merrimack (Exhibit 3)

i. Structures: 146 to 147

ii. Structure Span (ft): 361.8

iii. Baboosic Brook Span (ft): 38.2

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 crossings.

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 18.6' for 115 kV conductor over water areas not suitable for sail boating or where sail boating is prohibited in respect to the Baboosic Brook crossings between Structures 120, 121, 135, 136, 138, 139, 146, and 147 (Exhibits 2 through 4). The actual minimum height over the public water is depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 through 4 and exceeds the respective minimum requirements.
8. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) statutory permit by notification (SPN) and a shoreland statutory permit by notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the structure replacements and will be obtained prior to commencement of construction.
9. The structure replacement work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners affected by the project scope.
10. Eversource submits that the license applied for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the use and enjoyment of the public waters because safe clearances will be maintained at all times.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Department:

1. Find that the license application for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights at the public water crossings which are the subject of this application; and
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters described in this application.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 2nd day of August, 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".

Erik R. Newman, Senior Counsel, Legal
780 North Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
(603) 634-2459