

File this form with Form 2, maps, and other supporting documents in the project folder under appropriate Small Projects Day date and district subfolder: <https://usfs.box.com/s/fy5obuq7ekwfmgc70e1apxu5izsuala8>.

Save shapefiles and map projects (mxd files) on the T drive:

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1. Project Name:	B112 Transmission Line Rebuild and Optical Ground Wire
2. Project Location —Include town(s), major roadways, and other pertinent landmark labels. Attach a map. Map should be at an appropriate scale and extent to orient a reader unfamiliar with the project location:	The B112 Transmission Line Rebuild and Optical Ground Wire Project crosses through the White Mountain National Forest in the Town of Sandwich between Lower Hall Pond Road and Mount Israel Road. The transmission line corridor also crosses Sandwich Notch Road and Kiah Pond Road.
3. Project Proponent/Contact —Include applicant information if project is not internal. Include WMNF contact information:	Eversource Energy is the applicant, Att: Ashley Friend, Licensing and Permitting Specialist at ashley.friend@eversource.com or 603-634-2992. WMNF Contact: Jasmin Faunce, permit administrator, jasmin.faunce@usda.gov , 603-481-6576
4. Implementation Timeframe —When is the project expected to start? Is timing critical? If so, why?	The overall project is proposed to begin in July 2024, and construction is anticipated to take about one year pending unforeseen weather or project delays. Timing is critical in order to complete the project safely and in accordance with outage schedules.
5. Project Funding —Is the project funded, or expected to be funded within proposed timeframe?	It is anticipated the project will be funded prior to start of construction.
6. Implementation Mechanism (e.g., contract, partner, permittee, force account):	Eversource will award the rebuild project to a subcontractor familiar with this type of work.
7. Special Uses —Does the project require an SUP? Has an SUP application been accepted?	A special use permit is in place. The existing permit authorizes corridor maintenance, line and pole repair and replacement.
8. Project fits a CE? (Yes/No)	Yes
9a. CE Name and Number:	220.6(e)(2) Additional construction or reconstruction of existing telephone or utility lines in a designated corridor.
9b. Is a DM required?	Yes
10. Purpose and Need —Describe relationship between the current and desired future condition. Why is the project needed?	The existing utility poles are wooden poles that are old and worn, and have been extensively damaged by various wildlife, including clawing from bears. The poles must be replaced in order to maintain the safety and reliability of the transmission line.
11. Project Description —Who, what, where, when, and how. Will trees be cut (about how many, what diameter, is a timber prescription needed)? Are there seasonal restrictions? Describe acres (footprint), access, methods, equipment, and duration, etc.	Eversource is proposing to rebuild the existing and maintained B112 Transmission Line and replace existing static wire with Optical Ground Wire (OPGW). This project is part of a larger pole replacement project however, the B112 Transmission Line also crosses through and includes about 4.6 miles of WMNF between Lower Hall Pond Road and Mount Israel Road in the Town of Sandwich within the WMNF. Eversource is proposing to replace 58 existing utility poles within this permitted ROW in kind within the same footprint yet changing from wood poles to steel poles with equivalent design (see photos). Structure heights will increase on average 10-15-ft which is required to meet current National Electric Safety Code Standards. Replaced poles will be

removed from the site. Eversource is supplying the poles provided from a pole manufacturer specializing in manufacturing poles located in the New England area. Specifically, where the poles will be coming from is dependent on unit costs, availability, product shipping costs and available stock. Steel could be imported to an American importer or exported by an exporter to a pole manufacturer that manufactures steel poles. Where access and work pads are proposed within wetlands, Eversource will utilize heavy tracked equipment such as a lift crane, boom truck and pole carrier to minimize damage to soils and wet areas in addition to temporary timber matting in order to cross wetlands and minimize/prevent rutting and compaction in wetlands. Individual timber mats are about four by sixteen feet and will be replaced in adjoining segments in order to span wetlands. Upon completion of work, temporary timber matting will be removed, and impacted wetlands will be restored by seeding and adding mulch. In uplands, Eversource is proposing grading and construction of about sixteen feet width gravel access roads and seventy-five square foot gravel work pads at most structure locations. Eversource would need to access Kiah Pond Road for the duration of the project. Some select structures will require up to one-hundred square foot work pads based on structure type and/or location. Upon completion of work, Eversource is proposing to leave access roads in place in order to access structures in the event of an emergency and will reduce gravel work pads to an approximate sixty foot by thirty-foot area in order for bucket trucks to access structures in emergencies and/or structure maintenance. Once structure replacements are complete, Eversource will replace existing static wire with OPGW which will serve to protect conductor wires below it from lightning during storm events and enhance communication between Eversource substations to identify locations where the line is damaged if needed.

Eversource is not proposing to expand the width of the right of way or add any new lines; the replacement structures will be located in the same alignment as the existing structures. Work is proposed within the existing and routinely mowed and maintained utility corridor, and therefore extensive tree cutting is not anticipated as part of this project. Work is scheduled to begin in July 2024 and continue for about one year.

Upland impacts for grading and addition of stone total about fifteen acres of impact. However this estimate includes construction of 75 square foot and select 100 square foot work pads which will be reduced in size upon completion of work to thirty by sixty-foot pads and temporarily graded areas will be restored to original grades to the greatest extent once work is complete. In addition, the project includes up to about three acres of temporary wetland impacts due to placement of temporary timber matting which will be restored upon completion of work.

12. Management Areas and Forest Plan—Describe affected MAs and any potential inconsistencies with Forest Plan.

Management Area 2.1 General Forest MA.

13. Known Resource Conditions/Issues:

Eversource has contracted a heritage survey contractor and is currently in process. WMNF has been notified and a survey permit issued.

14. Public Involvement—Describe anticipated level of public involvement (e.g., SOPA only, length of scoping period, etc.). What is target SOPA publication date? Will Public Affairs be needed?

Eversource will contact adjacent landowners, Town of Sandwich, and we will post on SOPA

Project is appropriate and ready for consideration at Small Projects Day.

Brooke M. Brown

3/23/2023

Responsible Official

Date