

Decision Memo

Eversource B-112 Transmission Line Rebuild

USDA Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest, Pemigewasset Ranger District
Carroll County, New Hampshire

Decision and Rationale for Categorically Excluding the Proposed Action

After careful consideration of public input, the recommendations of appropriate resource specialists, and the requirements of applicable laws and regulations, I have decided to implement the Eversource B-112 Transmission Line Rebuild project in Sandwich, Carroll County, New Hampshire. Project activities include replacing the current wooden transmission line pole structures with more resilient steel pole structures and replacing the current shield wire with optical ground wire. Additional information is provided in the “Small Projects Day Form 1—Project Information” (attached).

Project Design Features

The following project-specific measures to minimize or avoid potential impacts to key resources shall be implemented as part of this project.

- Avoid damage to milkweed plants where possible
- All direction to minimize effects to Canada Mountain Ricegrass listed in form two, table one shall be followed.
- National and state best management practices for water quality and erosion control shall be followed.
- The Forest botanist shall review and approve any specific seed mixes proposed for use in the project area.
- Equipment will be washed prior to entry onto the Forest; this includes soil and vegetative matter on wheels or tracks.
- Gravel and fill must come from weed-free sources to the extent practical. If gravel or fill cannot be identified as weed-free, project monitoring must be conducted for three years following implementation to assure no new infestations occur.
- The invasive plants Mugwort/Wormwood and Sheep Sorrel, identified by Eversource, should be controlled prior to commencement of site work.
- Should any new invasive plant infestations occur after project implementation, these infestations shall be controlled in coordination with Botany staff and consistent with the WMNF Forest Wide Invasive Plant Control Plan.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. The action is a routine activity within the following category of exclusion found at 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(2) Additional construction or reconstruction of existing telephone or utility lines in a designated corridor.

Based on information presented in this document and the project record, including input from appropriate resource specialists, I have evaluated the resource conditions listed in 36 CFR 220.6(b)(1) and determined there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this project. Supporting information is provided in the “Small Projects Day Form 2—Resource Specialist Review” (attached). Eversource shall follow resource specialist’s mitigation during and after implementation.

Public Involvement

This project received one comment. The commentor wanted to know the height of towers and if replacing towers was just considered maintenance.

Findings Required By and/or Related to Other Laws and Regulations

My decision is consistent with the 2005 White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. This decision also complies with all applicable laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.

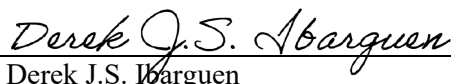
Administrative Review and Objection Opportunities

This decision is not subject to administrative review, or objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.

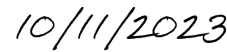
Implementation Date and Contact Information

Categorically excluded projects are not subject to notice, comment, or opportunity to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215. Therefore, this decision may be implemented immediately.

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Marianne Leberman, Special Uses Program Leader by email at marianne.leberman@usda.gov, by phone at 603-536-6236, or by mail at ATTN: Marianne Leberman, 71 White Mountain Dr., Campton, NH, 03223.



Derek J.S. Ibarguen
Forest Supervisor
White Mountain National Forest



Date

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