

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Inter-Department Communication

**DATE:** July 22, 2011

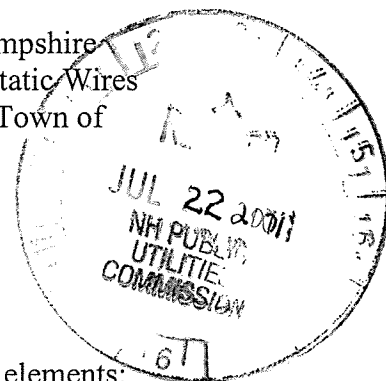
**AT (OFFICE):** NHPUC

**FROM:** Randy Knepper, Director Safety Division



**SUBJECT:** Docket No. DE 11-073 Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
Petition for a License to Construct and Maintain Lines and Static Wires  
Over and Across the Oyster River and Bellamy River in the Town of  
Barrington, New Hampshire

**TO:** Debra Howland, Executive Director  
Tom Frantz, Director, Electric Division  
Lynn Fabrizio, Staff Attorney



The Safety Division review of the above petition consisted of the following elements:

- Petition contents and history
- Review of public need and public impact, including applicability of other State regulations
- Conclusions and recommendations

### 1. Petition contents and history.

- On April 5, 2011, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition to construct and maintain electric lines and static wires over and across 7 bodies of water. Two of the proposed crossings are located in the Town of Barrington over the Oyster River and the Bellamy River. These river crossings comprise a portion of line C-129, which PSNH currently operates and maintains as a 115 kV transmission line. The Commission has not previously licensed these two existing overhead crossings.
- PSNH has determined it is necessary to upgrade the C-129 line in order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. The upgrade is necessitated by load growth in the seacoast area of New Hampshire and the installation of an additional autotransformer at Deerfield Substation in Deerfield, New Hampshire.
- The reconductoring of the C-129 line will require upgrading of one location (structures 104-105) on the Oyster River in the Town of Barrington. Even though PSNH will not be replacing conductors over the Bellamy River (structures 148-149) in the Town of Barrington, PSNH is petitioning to license this location because of the up-rate and resulting different sag clearances.

- PSNH proposes a construction start for the C-129 line upgrade of approximately September 5, 2011, and an in service date of the new Deerfield transformer of December 2012.

**2. Review of public need and public impact.**

Based on its review of the petition and existing field conditions, Staff believes that a license is not required for the Oyster River and Bellamy River crossings in the Town of Barrington. Although PSNH has demonstrated a public need for the proposed crossing upgrades and Staff has determined that the proposed upgrades are in compliance with applicable safety codes, the two “rivers” in question are very small bodies of water that are not likely to implicate any public use. (See attached photographs.) In addition, the segments of the water bodies covered by this petition are not included in the March 1, 2011 Official List of Public Waters compiled by the DES. Staff concludes that these two bodies of water do not meet the intent of the statute with respect to the licensing requirements of crossings over public waters, and that approval of the proposed upgrades is consistent with the public interest.

**3. Recommendations and Conclusions.**

The Safety Division recommends the Commission approve without requiring a license the proposed crossing upgrades over and across the Oyster River and Bellamy River in the Town of Barrington, with the following conditions:

- a) The Commission should require that all future alterations, that may affect the public, to the crossing conform to the requirements of both the 2002 and 2007 editions of the NESC and be resubmitted to the Commission 60 days prior to the alteration.
  - b) PSNH should be required to maintain and operate the crossings in conformance with the NESC.
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