#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# CR 2021-016 (formerly PUC DE 21-113)

# PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY

# **LICENSE NO. CR 2021-016**

October 21, 2021

License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across State Owned Land in Hill and Public Waters in Hill and New Hampton

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a

Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its A111 Line, an existing

115 kV electric transmission line that extends over and across land owned by the State
of New Hampshire in Hill and the Pemigewasset River in Hill and New Hampton.

#### I. BACKGROUND

On June 2, 2021, Eversource filed a petition with the New Hampshire

Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to reconstruct and maintain a section of the A111 Line that extends over and across State land in Hill and public waters in Hill and New Hampton. On June 25, 2021, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the petition be approved and a license granted, based on the petition filings, applicable statutes, rules, NESC requirements, and land ownership, as well as public need, safety, and impact. The petition and subsequent docket filings are posted on the Department's website (energy.nh.gov) at <a href="Utility Crossings Over State Lands">Utility Crossings Over State Lands</a> and Public Waters | NH</a>
Department of Energy.

#### II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

## A. Crossing Locations and Construction

This license pertains to Eversource's A111 electric transmission line that extends over and across the William H. Thomas State Forest in Hill and the Pemigewasset River between Hill and New Hampton. The license authorizes Eversource to replace nine existing wood structures with steel equivalents along the section of the A111 Line that spans the State Forest, and one structure in New Hampton on the east side of the span that crosses the Pemigewasset River between Hill and New Hampton. Three existing lines will be reconductored, and two existing shield wires will be replaced with two optical ground wire (OPGW) cables. Locations of the crossing structures are further specified in the petition filings.

## **B.** Regulatory Requirements

Eversource is responsible for obtaining any and all other federal, state, or local permits required by authorities having jurisdiction for the construction and installation of the proposed crossing. According to the petition, Eversource will obtain from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services a Standard Dredge and Fill wetland permit and a Shoreland Permit by Notification for the crossings.

### C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the crossings will not be substantially affected by the proposed project, because the A111 Line is an existing line and the project will be accomplished within existing easements.

# D. Service to the Public and the Effect on Public Rights

The petition states that the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and

maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need, and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the State land or public waters in Hill and New Hampton. The modifications were designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code.

#### III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17, et seq., to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across the William H. Thomas State Forest in Hill and the public waters of the Pemigewasset River between Hill and New Hampton, as described in its petition and depicted in its filings and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. Based on the factual representations set forth in the petition and the recommendation, the Department finds that the requested crossing is necessary to meet the reasonable requirements of reliable service to the public, as required by RSA 371:17, and that the requested license may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the State land or the public waters at the crossing locations in Hill and New Hampton, as required under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the petition is approved.

We require a copy of this license to be provided to the Town Clerks of Hill and New Hampton by first class mail no later than October 26, 2021, with a signed affidavit of compliance filed with the Department no later than 10 days following the issuance of the license.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2021.

License # CR 2021-016 (10-21-21)

Jared S. Chicoine Interim Commissioner