

1994 F-162, T-198, N-186, L-163, P-145, V-182, DE 94-272

80 NH PUC 574

Re Public Service Company of New Hampshire

DE 94-272

Order No. 21,817

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

September 6, 1995

ORDER granting licenses to an electric utility for the maintenance and operation of transmission lines over various bodies of public water, which sites had not heretofore been officially authorized.

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1. ELECTRICITY, § 7

[N.H.] Wires and cables — Aerial transmission lines — After-the-fact authorization of inadvertently unlicensed lines — Crossing of public waters as a factor — Multiple sites. p. 574.

2. CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT, § 5

[N.H.] Pole lines — Aerial electric transmission lines — Multiple locations — After-the-fact authorization of inadvertently unlicensed lines — Crossing of public waters as a factor. p. 574.

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

[1, 2] The Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission), on November 15, 1994 a petition under RSA 371:17, to maintain electric lines over and across public waters in the State of New Hampshire. The petition specifically identifies twenty existing electric transmission line crossings at thirteen locations specified in the petition, all of which had not been previously licensed by the Commission. On August 10, 1995, PSNH filed revised information updating its petition.

In order to meet the requirements of service to the public, PSNH must maintain electric transmission lines over and across certain public waters, which lines are an integral part of its electrical system. The definition of public waters contained in the limited purposes of RSA 371:17 includes "all ponds of more than ten acres, tidewater bodies, and such streams or portions thereof as the Commission may prescribe." The Commission prescribes these subject crossings to be over and across public waters.

The twenty crossings at thirteen sites were identified when PSNH performed an internal review of its electrical transmission system.

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This review disclosed instances where crossings have not been licensed. Details of the location, construction and design of the crossings PSNH now seeks to license are listed in the petition.

The crossing of the 334 line tap, as identified in Appendix 1 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-267/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-267/Exhibit 2, is over the Merrimack River in Bow and Pembroke, NH.

The two crossings of the F-162 line, as identified in Appendix 2 of the petition and on

drawings D-7649-383/Exhibit 1, D-7649-383/Exhibit 2, D-7694-384/Exhibit 1, and D-7694-384/Exhibit 2, are over the North Branch of the Piscataquog River in New Boston, NH. The crossing of the T-198 line, as identified in Appendix 3 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-385/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-385/Exhibit 2, is over the Ashuelot River in Swanzey, NH.

The crossing of the N-186 line, as identified in Appendix 4 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-386/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-386/Exhibit 2, is over the Ashuelot River in Winchester, NH.

The crossing of the L-163 line, as identified in Appendix 5 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-387/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-387/Exhibit 2, is over the Ashuelot River in Keene, NH.

The crossing of the 343 line, as identified in Appendix 6 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-388/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-388/Exhibit 2 is over the Baker River in Rumney, NH.

The crossing of the 332 line, as identified in Appendix 7 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-389/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-389/Exhibit 2, is over the Merrimack River in Hooksett, NH.

The crossing of the 338 line, as identified in Appendix 8 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-390/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-390/Exhibit 2, is over Wickwas Lake in Meredith, NH.

The crossing of the 318 line, as identified in Appendix 9 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-392/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-392/Exhibit 2, is over Turtle Pond in Concord, NH.

The crossing of the P-145 line, as identified in Appendix 9 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-393/Exhibit 1 and D-7649-393/Exhibit 2, is over Turtle Pond in Concord, NH.

The three crossings of the V-182 line, as identified in Appendix 9 of the petition and on drawings D-7649-394/Exhibit 1, D-7649-394/Exhibit 2, D-7649-395/Exhibit 1, and D-7649-395/Exhibit 2, are over Turtle Pond in Concord, NH.

These crossings are summarized on the attachment.

PSNH stated that the crossings meet the minimum clearances required under the 1993 National Electrical Safety Code. Upon review of the filed documentation, Staff has verified that all of these clearances meet the requirements of the 1993 National Electrical Safety Code. The Commission finds such crossings necessary for PSNH to meet its obligations to serve customers within its authorized franchise area, thus being in the public good. The public should be offered the opportunity to respond in support of, or in opposition to said petition.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED NISI, that authority be, and is hereby granted, pursuant to RSA 371:17 et seq., to PSNH, to maintain, and operate transmission lines over and across public waters of the State of New Hampshire at the locations described in this order that presently meet the clearance requirements of the 1993 National Electrical Safety Code unless the Commission otherwise directs prior to the proposed effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all reconstruction hereafter performed conform to the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code and all other applicable safety standards in

existence at that time; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 1601.05, PSNH shall cause an attested copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation, such publication to be no later than September 20, 1995 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before October 3, 1995; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Public Service of New Hampshire notify the Cities of

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Concord, and Keene and the Towns of Bow, Hooksett, Meredith, New Boston, Pembroke, Rumney, Swanzey, and Winchester by serving a copy of this order on the City or Town by first-class mail, said notification to be verified by affidavit filed on or before September 20, 1995; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than October 3, 1995; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective October 6, 1995, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date. By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this sixth day of September, 1995.

[Graphic(s) below may extend beyond size of screen or contain distortions.]

Attachment

Summary of PSNH Crossings

Petition Line Structure

Drawing No. Town No. Voltage From To

D-7649-267/Exhibit 1 Bow, Pembroke 344 34.5 kV T2 T1

D-7649-267/Exhibit 2

D-7649-383/Exhibit 1 New Boston F-162 115 kV 60 61

D-7649-383/Exhibit 2

D-7649-384/Exhibit 1 New Boston F-162 115 kV 58 59

D-7649-384/Exhibit 2

D-7649-385/Exhibit 1 Swanzey T-198 115 kV 130 131

D-7649-385/Exhibit 2

D-7649-386/Exhibit 1 Winchester N-186 115 kV 150 151

D-7649-386/Exhibit 2

D-7649-387/Exhibit 1 Keene L-163 115 kV 272 273

D-7649-387/Exhibit 2

D-7649-388/Exhibit 1 Rumney 343 34.5 kV 133 134

D-7649-388/Exhibit 2

D-7649-389/Exhibit 1 Hooksett 332 34.5 kV 2 1

D-7649-389/Exhibit 2 Hooksett 1

Hydro

D-7649-390/Exhibit 1 Meredith 338 33 kV 142 143

D-7649-390/Exhibit 2 143 144

144 145

D-7649-392/Exhibit 1 Concord 318 34.5 kV 124 125
D-7649-392/Exhibit 2 125 126
D-7649-393/Exhibit 1 Concord P-145 115 kV 131 132
D-7649-393/Exhibit 2 132 133
D-7649-395/Exhibit 1 Concord V-182 115 kV 77 78
D-7649-395/Exhibit 2 78 79
D-7649-394/Exhibit 1 Concord V-182 115 kV 81 8