

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-002

February 24, 2023

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters and State-Owned Land in Goffstown**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its J114 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Piscataquog River and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Goffstown. The public water crossing at the Piscataquog River was not previously licensed due to oversight, and the state-owned land crossing was not previously licensed, either due to oversight or, at the time the line was built, the State did not have ownership over the subject parcel. The J114 Line will be licensed in its entirety as a result of this application.

I. BACKGROUND

On January 17, 2023,¹ Eversource filed an application with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to construct and maintain its J114 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters and state-owned land in Goffstown, New Hampshire. On February 22, 2023, the Department's Enforcement Division Staff filed a recommendation that the application be approved and a license granted based on the application filings, applicable statutes, rules, NESC requirements, and land ownership, as well as public need, safety, and impact.

¹ The Company filed an amended application on February 16, 2023.

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Locations and Construction

This license pertains to Eversource's J114 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Piscataquog River and land in Goffstown, New Hampshire, owned by the State of New Hampshire, and managed by the Department of Fish and Game. The J114 Line crosses the Piscataquog River at Structures 1 and 2, and crosses state-owned land in Goffstown at Structures 1-3. The proposed project for the J114 encompasses the replacement of wood structures 1 through 3 at the public water and state-owned land with weathering steel structures. The new structures will be installed within 10 feet of the original structures and have the design and specification depicted and noted in the structure details of Exhibit 2 submitted by ES. As part of this project, the existing static wire will be replaced with a new OPGW wire and the installation of a second OPGW wire. The existing phase conductors will remain unchanged.

The location of Structures 1 to 2 in this application creates a total span of 928.63 feet with a span of 90.37 feet crossing the Piscataquog River.

The location of Structures 1 to 3 in this application creates a total span of 1298.37 feet with a span of 796.34 feet crossing state-owned land.

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 application, a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the replacement of Structures 1 and 2, and a Shoreland

Permit by Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the replacement of Structures 1 through 3.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the Piscataquog River as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from ACOE is not required.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the Piscataquog River and state land in Goffstown will not be affected by the proposed project because the crossing structures are being replaced and rebuilt within existing right-of-way easements.

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

According to the application, 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 public waters of the Piscataquog River or the State land parcel in Goffstown.


The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using a 100-year flood level, which is a more conservative analysis than the NESC 10-year flood clearance requirement.

III. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across public waters of the Piscataquog River and State land in Goffstown, as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. Based on the factual representations set forth in the application and the recommendation, the Department finds that the requested crossing

amendments are 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 at the crossing locations in Goffstown, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 24th day of February
2023.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner