

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

DOCKET No. DE 20-

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR LICENSE AND LICENSE AMENDMENT TO
CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS STATE
OWNED LAND IN STODDARD AND PUBLIC WATERS IN STODDARD, SULLIVAN
& KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “the Company”), a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire, hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), for a new license and license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across State owned land in Stoddard and public waters in Stoddard, Sullivan and Keene, New Hampshire. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the requirements for reasonable service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource L163 Line, originally constructed in 1954, over and across State owned land in Stoddard and public waters of the North Branch River in Stoddard, an unnamed outflow stream of Island Pond in Stoddard, Otter Brook in Sullivan, and the Ashuelot River in Keene, New Hampshire. The public waters crossing spans that are the subject of this petition were licensed most recently under Order 26,356 in Docket DE 19-172 which licensed wood to steel replacement of all of the structures (Strs. 30-31; 48-49; 132-133; 207-208) supporting those spans. The State owned land crossing spans that are the subject of this petition were not previously licensed.

2. The proposed project for the L163 encompasses replacement of original wood structures at the State owned land crossing spans (Strs. 26 to 33, excepting Strs. 30 & 31 which were replaced in 2020 under Order 26,356 for the crossing of the North Branch River in Stoddard that lies within the State owned land, and Structure 26 which was replaced in 2019 without obtaining a license due to an oversight. The proposed project also encompasses the replacement of both pole top mounted static wires with OPGW communication cables specified in the Cable Schedule on the attached exhibits and the removal of the underbuilt existing OPGW communication wire across all of the spans that are the subject of this petition. The reconfiguration of existing static wires and underbuilt OPGW communication wire is planned to reduce the number of static and communication wires from three to two. The existing three conductors having the unchanged specifications identified in the topline of the Cable Schedule on the attached Exhibits will be relocated to the steel replacement structures.

3. A high level perspective of the locations of the crossing spans are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1. A more detailed perspective including satellite imagery in the vicinity of the crossing location and identifying significant nearby roadways and notable businesses and community institutions in relation to the crossing location, as well as google coordinates for the crossing structures' location, is attached hereto as Exhibits 5A, 6A, 7A and 8A. These satellite imagery exhibits are included to enable PUC staff and members of the general public to easily navigate to the subject locations via google maps to further orient themselves as to the location of the crossings.

4. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossing span that is the subject of this petition are as indicated on the Structure Detail and Profile Views of Exhibits 2 through 8.

5. The location of structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing span:

- I. State Owned Land: Antrim & Stoddard (Exhibits 2 to 4)
 - i. Boundaries: Str. 26 to East edge of North Branch River
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1738'
 - iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 1425.1'

- II. State Owned Land: Stoddard (Exhibits 4 to 5)
 - i. Boundaries: West edge of North Branch River to Str. 33
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1347.8
 - iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 1152.5'

- III. North Branch River: Stoddard (Exhibit 4)
 - i. Structures: 30 to 31
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 353'
 - iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 56.4'

- IV. Unnamed Outflow of Island Pond: Stoddard (Exhibit 6)
 - i. Structures: 48 to 49
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 608'
 - iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 70.2'

- V. Otter Brook: Sullivan (Exhibit 7)
 - i. Structures: 132 to 133
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 621'
 - iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 45.9'

- VI. Ashuelot River: Keene (Exhibit 8)
 - i. Structures: 207 to 208
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 446'
 - iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 45.9'

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibits 2 through 8 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the State owned land and public water crossings.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossing at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1), which is 20.1'

for roads, streets and other areas subject to truck traffic in respect to the State owned land crossing spans and is 18.6' for 115 kV over water areas not suitable for sail boating in respect to the public water crossing spans. The actual minimum height over the State owned land and public waters is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 through 8 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

8. A 100-year flood elevation level was established based upon consultation of FEMA flood hazard layer firmette with a date of January 16, 2020.

9. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the Stoddard and Sullivan structure replacements. Also, a Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) for temporary impacts within the shoreland buffer will be required for the North Branch River in Stoddard and the Unnamed outflow of Island Pond in Stoddard. Said SPN's and PBN's will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. The static wire replacement over the Ashuelot River in Keene will be accomplished via helicopter and the work over Otter Brook will not entail any impacts within the shoreland buffer. No other environmental permitting is required.

10. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portions of the North Branch River in Stoddard, the Unnamed outflow of Island Pond in Stoddard, Otter Brook in Sullivan or Ashuelot River in Keene as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required.

11. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the public water crossing spans or State owned lands that are the subject of this petition would be affected by the proposed scope of this project as the L163 is an existing line and the project will be accomplished within existing ROW easements.

12. Eversource submits that the new license (for the State owned land spans) and license amendment (for the public water crossing spans) petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the State owned lands and public waters. Minimum safe clearances above the State owned land and public water surface will be maintained

at all times. As such, the use and enjoyment by the public of the State owned land and public waters will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the proposed structure replacements and OPGW communications cable installation.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the new license and amended license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the State owned lands and public waters which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource a new license and an amended license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the State owned land and public waters as identified and described in this petition;
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 30th day of December, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
By Its Attorney



Erik R. Newman, Senior Counsel, Legal
780 North Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
(603) 634-2459