

**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 FOR LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ELECTRIC LINES
OVER AND ACROSS BLACKWATER RIVER IN THE TOWN OF ANDOVER,
CASCADE BROOK IN THE TOWN OF WILMOT, AND PUBLIC LANDS OWNED BY
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE IN THE TOWNS OF SPRINGFIELD AND
FRANKLIN, 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 license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across certain public waters and lands owned by the State of New Hampshire ("State") in the Towns of Andover, Wilmot, and Springfield, and Franklin, New Hampshire. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource M127 Line, over and across the Blackwater River in the Town of Andover, Cascade Brook in the Town of Wilmot, and public lands owned by the State of New Hampshire in the Towns of Springfield and Franklin, New Hampshire. The existing crossing over and across the Blackwater River in Andover and Cascade Brook in Wilmot and State land parcels in Springfield have not been previously licensed by the Commission; in the case of the state land crossings of parcels 563-163 and 163-163 in Springfield, because the M127 Line was constructed in 1967 before the State acquired title in January 1974; and in the case of the public waters crossings, either because the waters were non-jurisdictional at the time of the original construction or from inadvertent oversight. The crossing of the Northern Rail Trail in Franklin was previously licensed under Order No. 26,025 issued June 16, 2017 in Dockets DE 15-460, DE 15-461, DE 15-462 and DE 15-463. The locations of these crossings which are the subject of this petition are shown on the USGS locational drawing attached hereto as Exhibit #1.
2. Eversource is commencing a project to replace a number of the structures on its existing M127 Transmission Line and to replace one of two existing shield wires with optical ground

wire cabling (OPGW), which will impact the crossings which are the subject of this petition. Certain of the M127 Line wood transmission structures are approximately 50 years old and have been subject to environmental damage and require replacement for the M127 Line to continue to function safely and reliably. Existing structures 76, 153, 154 and 237-242 will be replaced with weathered steel which will be constructed within 10' of the existing wood structures, except in the case of str. 241, which will be installed 30' closer to Structure 242 as a result of the steep topography at that location.

3. The design and proposed construction of the replacement crossings for the M127 Line over the Blackwater River, Cascade Brook, and over the State land parcels will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawing for the water crossings and land crossings, attached as Exhibit #2 through Exhibit #6.

4. Wire and structure specifications for the subject crossing are as follows:

I. Wire:

- i. Shield Wire: 3/8" ALUMOWELD (7#8)
- ii. Transmission Wire: 795 kcmil ACSR 36/1
- iii. OPGW Wire: (0.457" diameter)

II. Structure Types and Pole Heights: From east to west

- i. Str. 0.5: 2-Pole, 60' Overall Length ("OAL"), 52' Above Ground Height ("AGH")
- ii. Str. 1: 3-Pole, 55' OAL (47.5' AGH)
- iii. Str. 76: 2-pole, 60' OAL (52' AGH)
- iv. Str. 77: 3-pole, 65' OAL (56.5' AGH)
- v. Str. 153: 2-Pole, 75' OAL (65.5' AGH)
- vi. Str. 154: 2-Pole, 75' OAL (65.5' AGH)
- vii. Str. 231: 2-Pole, 55' OAL (47.5' AGH)
- viii. Str. 232: 2-Pole, 50' OAL (43' AGH)
- ix. Str. 233: 2-Pole, 65' OAL (56.5' AGH)
- x. Str. 234: 3-Pole, 55' OAL (47.5' AGH)
- xi. Str. 235: 2-Pole, 55' OAL (47.5' AGH)
- xii. Str. 236: 2-Pole, 55' OAL (47.5' AGH)
- xiii. Str. 237: 2-Pole, 65' OAL (56.5' AGH)
- xiv. Str. 238: 2-Pole, 90' OAL (78.5' AGH)
- xv. Str. 239: 2-Pole, 85' OAL (74' AGH)
- xvi. Str. 240: 2-Pole, 70' OAL (60.5' AGH)
- xvii. Str. 241: 2-Pole, 75' OAL (65' AGH)
- xviii. Str. 242: 2-Pole, 75' OAL (65' AGH)

5. The location of the structures creates the following crossing spans:
 - I. Northern Rail Trail: Franklin (Exhibit 2)
 - i. Structures: Substation to 1
 - ii. Structure Span: 282 feet
 - iii. State Land Span: 108 feet
 - II. Blackwater River: Andover, (Exhibit 3)
 - i. Structures 76 to 77
 - ii. Structure Span: 629 feet
 - iii. Public Waters Span: 102 feet
 - III. Cascade Brook: Wilmot, (Exhibit 4)
 - i. Structure 153 to 154
 - ii. Structure Span: 393 feet
 - iii. Public Waters Span: 46 feet
 - IV. State of New Hampshire: Springfield, Tax Map 11, Lot 153-153 (Exhibits 5)
 - i. Structures 231 to 238
 - ii. Structures Span: 2936 feet
 - iii. State Land Span: 2334 feet
 - V. State of New Hampshire: Springfield, Tax Map 11, Lot 563-153 (Exhibits 6)
 - i. Structures 237 to 242
 - ii. Structures Span: 2362 feet
 - iii. State Land Span: 2205 feet

6. All conductors have been drawn in Exhibit #2 through Exhibit #6 to show the minimum clearance distance at maximum sag conditions in reference to Blackwater River, Cascade Brook, and State land parcels crossings, respectively.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the crossing over the Blackwater River and Cascade Brook at a height no less than is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety code (NESC, Table 232-1), which is 18.6 feet for 115 kV open supply conductors over water areas not suitable for sail boating, as depicted on the attached Exhibits #3 and #4 respectively.

8. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings over the State land locations at a height no less than what is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1), which is 20.1 feet to ground for 115kV open supply conductors over lands used by off-road vehicles, as depicted on the attached Exhibit #2, #5 and #6.

9. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification application is required for construction activities in the vicinity of the Blackwater River and Cascade Brook crossings. The permits by notification were approved by NHDES on October 15, 2019 (see NHDES File # 2019-03243 and 2019-03241) and will be renewed prior to construction.
10. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of the Blackwater River and Cascade Brook as federal-designated navigable waters. Accordingly, no ACOE permit is required.
11. The Blackwater River crossing in Andover and Cascade Brook crossing in Wilmot are both located in flood Zone A, based on FEMA mapping with an effective date of April 19, 2010. Base flood elevations have not been determined by FEMA for these locations and the elevations indicated on Exhibits 3 and 4 are based on a comparison of surrounding elevations with the FEMA delineated 100-year flood zone boundaries. This is higher than the 10-year flood elevation required by NESC and provides a conservative clearance requirement.
12. It is not anticipated that abutters on either side of the subject crossings will be affected by this petition, as the M127 is an existing line and the crossings structures are being replaced and rebuilt within Eversource's existing utility easements and no new or additional real property rights are required to replace the structures.
13. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of Blackwater River or Cascade Brook, or in the State's land parcels. Minimum safe line clearances above the land surfaces will be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment of the public of the lands will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the replacement of the overhead line crossings.

Wherefore, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the state lands which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the State's land parcels as identified and described in this Petition;
3. Authorize Eversource to submit any future proposed alteration(s) to the amended licenses granted herein at least 60 days prior to undertaking any such alteration(s); and

4. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Respectfully submitted 30th day of January, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
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By Its Attorney



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