

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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

**LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-004**

**February 7, 2023**

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

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its M183 Line, an existing electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Dover. The M183 Line public water crossing at the Cocheco River was previously licensed under Order #25,156 (DE 10-224). The state-owned land crossing was not previously licensed due to either an oversight or because at the time the line was built the State did not have ownership over the subject parcel. The M183 Line will be licensed in its entirety as a result of this application.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On January 23, 2023,<sup>1</sup> 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 M183 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters and state-owned land in Dover, New Hampshire. On February 3, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The Company filed an amended application on January 30, 2023.

## **II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE**

### **A. Crossing Locations and Construction**

This license pertains to Eversource's M183 Line, an electric transmission line that extends over and across public waters of the Cocheco River and land in Dover, New Hampshire owned by the State of New Hampshire and managed by the Department of Fish and Game. The M183 Line crosses the Cocheco River between Structures 87 and 88 and crosses state-owned land in Dover between Structures 80 and 85. The proposed project encompasses a structure replacement whereby Structure 88 at the public water and Structures 81 through 85 at the state-owned land crossing span are to be replaced with a weathering steel equivalent having the design and specification depicted and noted in the Structure Details of Exhibits 2 and 4 submitted by ES. Structure 87 will not be replaced as part of this crossing.

The location of Structures 87 to 88 in this application creates a total span of 500.4 feet with a span of 304.9 feet crossing the Cocheco River.

The location of Structures 80 to 85 in this application creates a total span of 2,209.6 feet with a span of 1,405.2 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 81 through 85, and a Shoreland Permit Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts associated with the Structure 88 replacement.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) regulates the subject portion of the Cocheco River as navigable waters and the scope of work discussed in this license at the subject public water crossing will be licensed via Self-Verification under the ACOE New Hampshire Programmatic General Permit #4, and this licensing will be accomplished prior to commencement of the maintenance project.

**C. Property Rights**

According to Eversource, abutters to the state land and the Cocheco River in Dover 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 Cocheco River and state-owned land in Dover, New Hampshire.

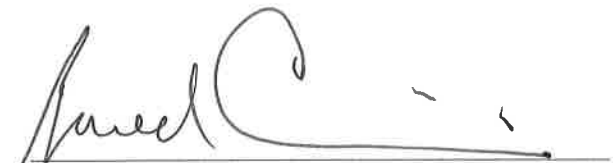
The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The clearance requirement with respect to the water crossing was calculated using a 100-year flood level, which is a more conservative analysis than the NESC 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 Cocheco River and State land in Dover, New Hampshire, 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 subject public waters and state-owned land at the crossing locations in Dover, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February  
2023.



Jared S. Chicoine  
Commissioner

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Intra-Department Communication

**DATE:** April 11, 2023

**AT (OFFICE):** NH Dept. of Energy

**FROM:** Michael Soucy MRS  
Administrator III – Division of Enforcement

**SUBJECT:** CRE 2023-004 Eversource Energy  
Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over  
and Across Public Waters and State-Owned Land in the City of Dover,  
New Hampshire

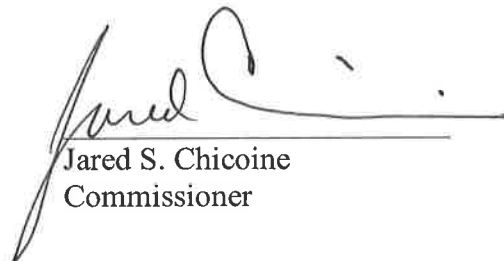
### Staff Recommendation Revision

**TO:** Jared Chicoine, Commissioner, Department of Energy  
Christopher Ellms, Jr., Deputy Commissioner, Department of Energy

**CC:** Thomas Frantz, Director of Regulatory Support Division  
Paul Kasper, Director, Enforcement Division  
Elizabeth Nixon, Director-Electric Regulatory Support Division  
Andrew Harmon, Hearings Examiner, Enforcement Division

The Enforcement Division received the attached revised Exhibit 4 from Eversource on 4/7/23 and identified the following:

- 1) During construction of the M183 structure upgrades in Dover, Eversource discovered that, to meet proper engineering requirements, structure 88 on the west bank of the Cochecoo River will need to be embedded an additional 4 feet deeper than originally planned. This change in structure depth will also change the elevation of the conductor point of attachment.
- 2) The revised Exhibit 4 submitted by Eversource, reflects the new design criteria. The conductor cable clearance requirements pursuant to the NESC based on the design conditions at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, with ½ inch ice have been met.



Jared S. Chicoine  
Commissioner