

File this form with Form 2, maps, and other supporting documents in the project folder under appropriate district or SO Small Projects Day subfolder.

Save shapefiles and map projects (mxd files) on the T drive:

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1. Project Name
Eversource S-136 Transmission Line Rebuild Project
2. Project Location —Include town(s), major roadways, and other pertinent landmark labels. Attach a map. Map should be at an appropriate scale and extent to orient a reader unfamiliar with the project location:
About 7.4 miles of the Whitefield to Berlin (S-136) transmission line in Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham; Coos County, New Hampshire
3. Project Proponent/Contact —Include applicant information if project is not internal. Include White Mountain National Forest contact information:
Eversource Energy: Jeremy Fennell, Senior Environmental Specialist; 13 Legends Drive Hooksett NH 03106; jeremy.fennell@eversource.com
White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) contact: Jasmin Faunce, Realty Specialist; jasmin.faunce@usda.gov ; 603-481-6576
4. Implementation Timeframe —When is the project expected to start? Is timing critical? If so, why?
Construction proposed to begin winter 2023, pending issuance of necessary permits and approvals, through spring 2025. A request for Archeological Resources Protection Act permit was submitted to the WMNF on May 17, 2023. Permit was issued.
5. Project Funding —Is the project funded, or expected to be funded within proposed timeframe?
Yes
6. Implementation Mechanism (e.g., contract, partner, permittee, force account):
A contractor has yet to be selected for the proposed work. The chosen contractor will be pre-approved by Eversource and familiar with structure replacement work in northern New Hampshire.
7. Special Uses
Does the project require a special use permit? No If yes, has an application been accepted? Not applicable
8. Project fits a Categorical Exclusion? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9a. Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s): 36 CFR 220.6(e)(2) (DM Required) Additional construction or reconstruction of existing telephone or utility line in a designated corridor.
9b. Is a Decision Memo required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
10. Purpose and Need —Describe relationship between the current and desired future condition. Why is the project needed?
The existing utility poles are wooden poles that are old, worn, and have extensive damage by various wildlife, including clawing from bears. The project is needed to maintain safety and reliability of the transmission line.

11. Project Description—Who, what, where, when, and how. Will trees be cut (about how many, what diameter, is a timber prescription needed)? Are there seasonal restrictions? Describe acres (footprint), access, methods, equipment, and duration, etc.

Eversource, permit holder for utility lines across the WMNF, has identified 214 existing structures that need to be replaced within the existing right of way (ROW) of the S-136 transmission line in Whitefield, Jefferson, Randolph, and Gorham NH.

The proposed structure replacement work will involve replacing wooden H-frame structures with new, steel H-frame structures along 7.4 miles of the ROW. All work will follow the Best Management Practices Manual for Utility Maintenance in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies in NH. The proposed project will use existing access routes within the S-136 transmission line ROW wherever possible. Portions of the ROW occur within the WMNF lands and there are also some areas where access to the ROW may need to cross WMNF lands. Most existing access routes are comprised of dirt or grassy areas, or previously used access routes, and are proposed to be improved as part of the project to allow for construction vehicle access. No vegetation clearing is anticipated. Minor trimming of tree branches may be needed along the ROW for equipment access. The width of the ROW will not change, no new off-ROW access roads will be constructed (upgrades to existing may be needed), and no new additional transmission lines will be built. Where access and work pads are proposed within wetlands, Eversource will use temporary timber matting to cross wetlands. Individual timber mats are about four feet by sixteen feet and will be placed in adjoining segments to span wetlands. Upon completion of work, temporary timber matting will be removed, and wetlands will be restored by seeding and adding mulch if needed. In uplands, Eversource is proposing grading and construction of about sixteen foot wide gravel access roads and 100 by 100 square foot gravel work pads at most structure locations. Upon completion of work, Eversource is proposing to leave access roads in place in order to access structures in the event of an emergency, and will reduce work gravel pads to an approximate sixty by thirty foot area in order for bucket trucks to access structures in emergencies or when structure maintenance is needed. Structure heights will increase on average ten to fifteen feet which is required to meet current National Electric Safety Code standards. The proposed project will not add any new lines within the ROW and Eversource is not proposing to expand the width of the ROW.

Vehicles and equipment that will need to access the transmission line corridor include mobile cranes to set poles, flatbed trucks to deliver materials, and other mobile equipment such as drill rigs, frontend loaders, and excavators. The project proposes to use portions of two existing roads outside of the ROW for access. Grading and the addition of gravel may be necessary to make the off-ROW access roads passable by construction equipment. No tree clearing will be required during any phase of construction, and all work will occur within the existing, cleared transmission line ROW and access roads.

Construction proposed to begin winter 2023, pending issuance of necessary permits and approvals, through spring 2025. Work is expected to take place throughout the year to allow for time to replace the structures and replace the overhead wires.

12. Management Areas and Forest Plan—Describe affected management areas (MAs) and any potential inconsistencies with the forest plan.

Management Area 2.1, General Forest Management

13. Known Resource Conditions/Issues:

Eversource has provided reports from NH Natural Heritage Bureau and US Fish and Wildlife Service that indicates the plant life, wildlife, or threatened and endangered species that may occur in the proposed project location.

14. Public Involvement—Describe anticipated level of public involvement (e.g., SOPA only, length of scoping period, etc.). What is target SOPA publication date? Will Public Affairs be needed?

Target SOPA publishing is April 2024.

15. Required Supplemental Information—The following materials must be included with the proposal for Responsible Official signature.

- Photographs and/or video documentation of project area
- Figure and/or spatial data

Project is appropriate and ready for consideration at Small Projects Day.

/s/ Josh Sjostrom 10/3/2023

Responsible Official and Date