

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: 30 May 2008

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Tom Frantz, Director – Electric Division

SUBJECT: DE 08-064: PSNH Petition under RSA 371:17 for V-182 line

TO: Chairman Getz, Commissioners Below and Morrison
Executive Director Howland

On April 24, 2008, PSNH filed a petition with the Commission under RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain electric lines and a fiber optic communications cable at locations over and across the following public waters: the Merrimack River in Bow, Concord, Franklin and Northfield, the Soucook River in Concord and Pembroke, Turtle Town Pond in Concord and Chance Pond in Franklin. PSNH states in its petition that with the exception of the two existing crossings of the Soucook River in Concord and Pembroke, the overhead crossings at these locations had been previously licensed by the Commission. PSNH proposes to include the crossing of the Soucook River, for some reason not previously licensed, in this petition.

PSNH states that the crossings are part of PSNH's V-182 transmission line, a 115 kV line that runs between PSNH's Garvins substation in Bow, New Hampshire and PSNH's Webster substation in Franklin, New Hampshire and is an essential part of PSNH's transmission system as well as an important component of the overall transmission system in New England. Based on load growth in central New Hampshire, PSNH proposes to expand the capacity of the line as the thermal capabilities of the V-182 line can be exceeded if the other, larger capacity parallel 115 kV line is lost while Merrimack Station is running. The rebuild of the V-182 line will increase service reliability in this section of New Hampshire.

Staff employed the Liberty Consulting Group (Liberty) to review PSNH's petition. Liberty filed a memo electronically with Staff in which Liberty discusses its review of the PSNH petition. Liberty stated that "PSNH provided sufficient information and data to justify the new crossings and assure the Commission that the new facilities will be properly constructed, operated, and maintained." Liberty also stated that "If the proposed facilities are constructed, operated, and maintained as proposed in its filing, PSNH will provide safe and reliable service to the public based on sound engineering standards as specified in the 2007 edition of the National Electrical Code." Liberty further recommended that Staff should recommend approval of PSNH's petition to the Commission. Staff reviewed Liberty's recommendation and the PSNH petition, including the 7 appendices covering the six water crossings (one appendix for each crossing except for Turtle Town Pond which due to its size was broken into two parts), and recommends that the Commission approve the filing on an order *nisi* basis.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this recommendation or PSNH's petition.