# Comment for SEC 2024-02 and DE-24-087

The New Hampshire AG has allowed Eversource to sign its X-178 Alteration of Terrain and Dredge and Fill Wetlands permit applications *as the landowner* though DES rules require that landowners receive and sign (or not) these applications.

Who signed the <u>Alteration of Terrain</u> permit application for the X-178 (2) below; Kurt Nelson/Eversource or Lindsey White/GZA?

Env-Wq 1503.12 (d)(1&2)	Measurement of Contiguous Area Disturbed;
Rule Section Waiver Request	Inclusion in Plans Name of Rule
contiguous disturbed area included in this )	uding past terrain disturbance in the measurement of X178-2 Line AOT application. Future disturbance, beyond / project described in this application is not known at this
Waiver Timeline Permanent	
and/or improved as part of this project and application. Future structure maintenance consultation with NHDES, will evaluate whet	have been created within the last 10 years will be utilize have been included in the current calculations within the may occur within the X178-2 ROW. Eversource, throug her future terrain disturbances within the X178-2 ROW will plication or subject to a new, separate application.
of maintaining existing utility infrastructur reliability of the electrical infrastructure. Pro 2 ROW are included in this application and s this application and subsequent permit appr	tes and work pads around utility structures for the purpose. This project is necessary to maintain the safety an oposed disturbances anticipated for 2024 within the X178 shown on Figures 3 and 4. Project disturbances included it rovals will be considered if future structure maintenance curce respectfully requests a waiver from including pasturbances within the X178-2 ROW will be evaluated an
disturbance in this application. Future dist	
disturbance in this application. Future dist discussed with NHDES and permit amend	ments or new permit applications will be submitted,
disturbance in this application. Future dist discussed with NHDES and permit amend necessary.	

## D. WAIVER REQUESTS

Env-Wa 1504.09

**Rule Section Waiver Request** 

Stormwater Drainage Report; Drainage Area Plans; Hydrologic Soil Group Plans Name of Rule

### Reason for Waiver Request

Eversource is requesting a waiver for preparing a Stormwater Drainage Report, Drainage Area Plans and Hydrologic Soil Group Plans for proposed access improvements and work pad grading associated with maintenance of the existing X178-2 Transmission Line structures. The proposed access and work pad improvements for continued transmission line maintenance work will not result in new impervious surfaces. As a result, stormwater treatment practices are not proposed.

#### Waiver Timeline

Permanent

#### **Proposed Alternative**

The proposed access and work pad improvements will not result in new impervious surface. Therefore, there is no proposed alternative to substitute the requirements of Env-Wq 1504.09.

### Compliance with Env- WQ 1509.04

The project proposes to improve access routes and work pads around utility structures for the purpose of maintaining existing utility infrastructure. This project is necessary in order to maintain the safety and reliability of the electrical infrastructure. Access and work pad improvements will be completed using stone and gravel, and therefore stormwater drainage should not be affected by the proposed project. In addition, it is not anticipated that stormwater drainage area plans would show significant differences between existing and proposed conditions. An NRCS Web Soil Survey report was generated to show general soil information within the project area. Since there is no new impervious surface area proposed and stormwater drainage is not anticipated to be affected by the proposed project, it is not anticipated that soils will be significantly impacted by the project.

Best Management Practices will be utilized to protect wetlands from erosion, sedimentation, or other environmental degradation. In addition, gravel work pads will be coated with seed and mulch to allow vegetation growth on the surface, further minimizing and preventing erosion and sedimentation. As a result, Eversource respectfully requests that a Stormwater Drainage Report, Drainage Area Plans, and Hydrologic Soil Group Plans be waived for the purposes of the proposed utility line maintenance project.

E. SIGNATURES

lindsey.white 3/20/24, 10:05:38 AM

Applicant/Owner, Kurt Nelson,

**Eversource Energy** 

Date

#### D. WAIVER REQUESTS

Env-Wq 1503.21 (d)(6&7) Rule Section Waiver Request Notification; Certification Name of Rule

#### Reason for Waiver Request

Eversource is requesting a waiver for deviations from the approved plans without applying for an amended permit or a new permit if shifts in the proposed project layout occur. Changes in project layout are frequently identified during construction by Eversource and their contractors and may be necessary to safely perform the work. Access shifts would be limited to the extent necessary for safety, would not impact new resources, and access would remain within the existing and maintained ROW. The need for additional permit applications can impact construction schedules and incur costly delays.

#### **Waiver Timeline**

Permanent

#### **Proposed Alternative**

Allow for the access road centerlines to be relocated during construction, if necessary, up to a distance equal to the approximate width of the ROW (approximately 170-350 feet on the X178-2 Line). Shifts would not create greater than 5% increase in disturbed area along the individual access segment, which is assumed to be the length of the access road between two work pads/structures.

Allow for the center point of the parking area, assumed to be the structure replacement work pads for transmission line projects, to be relocated during construction, if necessary, up to a distance equal to half the approximate width of the ROW (approximately 170-350 feet on the X178-2 Line). Shifts would not create greater than 5% increase in disturbed area at each work pad.

This would allow contractors to avoid steep terrain or other hazardous areas, or areas that may require significant grading or earthwork that may not have been identified during initial constructability reviews. Landowners may also request layout changes be made after project permitting is complete. In most cases this shift is done to reduce the amount of disturbed area.

## Compliance with Env-Wq 1503.21 (d)(6&7)

The project proposes to improve access routes and work pads around utility structures for the purpose of maintaining existing utility infrastructure. This project is necessary to maintain the safety and reliability of the electrical infrastructure. Proposed disturbances shown on Figures 3 and 4 are the result of avoidance and minimization measures and constructability reviews. Layout changes and shifts will be limited to the proposed alternative above. A reduction in disturbed area is often the result. As previously mentioned, access shifts would be limited to the extent necessary to safely perform work. Access routes will remain within the existing and maintained ROW and would not disturb new resources. Best Management Practices will be utilized to protect wetlands from erosion, sedimentation, or other environmental degradation as originally proposed. Eversource respectfully requests a waiver from limiting shifts of the project road centerlines and parking areas to 20 feet.

E. SIGNATURES

lindsey.white 3/20/24, 10:06:04 AM

Applicant/Owner, Kurt Nelson,

**Eversource Energy** 

Date

<ul> <li>By signing below, I certify that:</li> <li>The information contained in or otherwis best of my knowledge and belief;</li> </ul>	se submitted with this application is true, complete, and not misleading to th
<ul> <li>I understand that the submission of false department to deny the application, revo matter to the board of professional engir</li> </ul>	, incomplete, or misleading information constitutes grounds for the oke any permit that is granted based on the information, and/or refer the neers established by RSA 310-A:3 if I am a professional engineer; and nalties specified in New Hampshire law for falsification in official matters,
<b>⊠</b> APPLICANT	APPLICANT'S AGENT:
Signature: Supplement	lindsey.white 3/20/24, 10:04:03 AM
Name (print or type): Kurt Nelson	Title: Manager, Licensing & Pe
PROPERTY OWNER	☐ PROPERTY OWNER'S AGENT:
Signature:	Date:
Name (print or type):	Title:

In its 'Permitted and non-Permitted Uses on Transmission Rights of Way Eversource acknowledges: "While Eversource has rights to operate and maintain the electric system through these easements, the underlying property is still owned by private parties."

Does DES issue AoT permits when there is no Property Owner signature on the AoT application?

Can DES explain what the blue box means?