

Decision Memo

Eversource X178-1 Transmission Line Rebuild

USDA Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest, Pemigewasset Ranger District
Grafton County, New Hampshire

Decision and Rationale for Categorically Excluding the Proposed Action

After careful consideration of public input, the recommendations of appropriate resource specialists, and the requirements of applicable laws and regulations, I have decided to implement the Eversource X178-1 Transmission Line Rebuild in Woodstock, Grafton County, New Hampshire. Project activities include replacement of five wooden H-frame structures with new, steel H-frame structures along about one quarter of a mile of the existing right-of-way of the Eversource X178 transmission line within the WMNF. Additional information is provided in the “Small Projects Day Form 1—Project Information” (attached).

Project Design Features

The following project-specific measures to minimize or avoid potential impacts to key resources shall be implemented as part of this project.

- All boundary monuments and corners identified by the forest land surveyor shall be avoided to the extent practical. If any monuments or corners are disturbed during implementation, a forest land surveyor will be contacted to reset the monument or corner.
- No tree cutting or trimming shall be conducted from April 15 through October 31.
- All recommendations in the non-native invasive species section in table seven of form two shall be followed to the extent practical to minimize the spread of non-native invasive species.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. The action is a routine activity within the following category of exclusion found at 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(2) Additional construction or reconstruction of existing telephone or utility lines in a designated corridor. The category is applicable to the project because pole replacement is proposed in an existing utility corridor.

Based on information presented in this document and the project record, including input from appropriate resource specialists, I have evaluated the resource conditions listed in 36 CFR 220.6(b)(1) and determined there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this project. Supporting information is provided in the “Small Projects Day Form 2—Resource Specialist Review” (attached).

Public Involvement

This project was listed on the quarterly White Mountain National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) beginning in April 2024 and updated periodically during the analysis. One member of the public sent inquiries to the forest regarding project details during the analysis process.

Findings Required By and/or Related to Other Laws and Regulations

My decision is consistent with the 2005 White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. This decision also complies with all applicable laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.

Administrative Review and Objection Opportunities

This decision is not subject to administrative review, or objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.

Implementation Date and Contact Information

Categorically excluded projects are not subject to notice or opportunity to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218. Therefore, this decision may be implemented immediately.

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Jasmin Faunce, realty specialist by email at jasmin.faunce@usda.gov, or by mail at ATTN: Jasmin Faunce, 71 White Mountain Dr., Campton, NH 03223.

X

Derek J.S. Ibarguen,
Forest Supervisor

Date

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