

Three questions leading to one request to the Site Evaluation Committee, 2024-02

1. How can the the public and intervenors provide fact-based testimony or comments on whether Eversource's proposed X-178 rebuild is a significant expansion/increase when the Alteration of Terrain and Dredge and Fill Wetlands applications for the X-178 (2) Phase 2 are not available to the public (or DES as of 2/2/2025)?
2. How can the SEC determine whether Eversource's proposed X-178 rebuild is a significant expansion/increase when its members have not seen the Alteration of Terrain and Dredge and Fill Wetlands applications for the X-178 (2) Phase 2?

Because the X-178 (2) Phase 2 includes almost all of the White Mountain National Forest, including the National Register listed Appalachian and Reel Brook Trails, Eversource's methods, type and extent of proposed construction here are extremely important

What is a reasonable amount of time before March 4th for the public and members of the SEC to have hard copies of these 100+ page permit applications?

What is a reasonable amount of time before March 4th for the public and members of the SEC to have digital copies of these permit applications?

The information below indicates that the X-178 (2) Phase 2 [project plans](#) posted on Eversource's X-178 "site" are out-of-date and inaccurate.

This information also raises the issue of why Eversource has not mentioned, let alone proposed, these lower impact construction methods for all of the White Mountain National Forest as well as for private lands

Eversource is proposing utilizing helicopter construction methods at 23 structure locations within the WMNF. Drilling equipment and materials (for geotechnical evaluation and line construction) will be flown into the forest at each installation location. These structures will utilize micropile foundations which are comprised of several small diameter borings and casings and require a smaller work footprint than structures installed using conventional direct imbed methods. As contingency, should helicopter operations be interrupted, the project is assuming the potential for conventional access installation methods at each structure location.

3. How can the public, intervenors and the SEC assess the significance of Eversource's proposed project without knowing Eversource's final plan for the White Mountain National Forest and the Forest Service's decision and conditions in its Special Use Permit, should it issue one?

White Mountain National Forest does not expect to begin scoping on the X-178 (2) until April.

I request that the Site Evaluation Committee move the hearing on the X-178 to a day two weeks after the Forest Service releases its decision on the X-178 (2).

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P.S. Eversource's other complete line replacements indicate that the X-178 (1 & 2) have at least 40 years of service remaining and the X-178 (3) at least 25 years, so even a year of delay should not present structure reliability issues.