

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 X178-1 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:
0.28 miles of the established Beebe to North Woodstock (X178-1) transmission line going through Campton, Thornton, Woodstock, Grafton County NH.
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, 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 October 2024 with an in service date of December 2026. Permitting at the local, state and federal level will be ongoing through 2023 through start of construction. A request for Archeological Resources Protection Act permit was submitted to Sarah Jordan on April 13, 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?
Eversource X178-1 Transmission Line is a current permitted special use on the White Mountain National Forest (permits WTM0759 and WTM0771). Recent pole inspection found the wooden pole structures to be in poor condition given their age, damage from wildlife, insects, and rot. The project is needed to maintain public 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, current permit holder for utility lines across the WMNF, has identified five existing utility poles that need to be replaced within the existing right of way (ROW) of the X178-1 transmission line in Campton, Thornton, and Woodstock, NH.

The proposed structure replacement work will involve replacing five wooden H-frame structures with new, steel H-frame structures along 0.28 miles of the ROW within the WMNF. All work will follow the Best Management Practices Manual for Utility Maintenance in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies in NH. 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 access roads off the ROW 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. Trimming of tree branches may be done as needed along the ROW for equipment access. Construction proposed to begin October 2024 with an in service date of December 2026. Work is expected to take place throughout the year to allow for time to replace the structures and replace the overhead wires.

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. The proposed project will use existing access routes within the X178-1 transmission line ROW wherever possible. 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. Where access and work pads are proposed within wetlands, Eversource will use temporary timber matting to cross wetlands and minimize rutting and compaction in 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 impacted wetlands will be restored by seeding and adding mulch. In uplands, Eversource is proposing grading and construction of about sixteen feet 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 60 foot by 30 foot area in order for bucket trucks to access structures in emergencies and/or structure maintenance. Structure heights will increase on average ten feet to fifteen feet which is required to meet current National Electric Safety Code standards.

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. Independent Archeological Consulting, LLC will be conducting the archeological surveys.

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?

April 2024 SOPA. To date Eversource has reached out to interested stakeholders and town officials, held public information sessions in Sugar Hill and Campton, and put up a project website where more information can be obtained www.eversource.com/X178-line-project.

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.

Responsible Official and Date