## Stantec Consulting Services Inc. 30 Park Drive, Topsham ME 04086-1737



January 26, 2024 File: 195602579

Attention: Dalton Town Clerk 756 Dalton Road Dalton, NH 03598

Reference: Eversource Sugar Hill to Whitefield (X178-3) Project, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Permit Application

Please find enclosed for your review the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) permit application materials for Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy's (Eversource) proposed transmission line replacement project located within the existing X178-3 right-of-way in Sugar Hill, Bethlehem, Dalton, and Whitefield, New Hampshire. The enclosed application materials include the following attachments:

- Original New Hampshire Wetland Permit Application Form (for your signature)
- Four Copies of the required application materials:
  - New Hampshire Wetland Permit Application Form
  - o Permit Plan Map Set
  - USGS Location Map

The proposed project will include temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands. Temporary impacts include the use of construction mats for access and work pads around the replacement structures. Approximately 864,137 square feet of temporary wetland matting is proposed. Permanent wetland impacts include the footprint of new poles within wetland areas, a total of approximately 1,620 square feet, 740 square feet of which are located in Priority Resource Area wetlands. Forested wetland clearing is proposed around the Streeter Pond Switchyard for temporary infrastructure needed to perform the structure and line replacements. Approximately 40,434 square feet of wetland tree clearing is proposed. No stream impacts are proposed as part of the project. Eversource and Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) discussed the wetlands permit application during pre-application meetings with NHDES and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on November 16, 2023.

During the pre-application meetings with NHDES and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Stantec and Eversource proposed a wetland impact tracking and reporting process that would document wetland matting and removal for the purposes of determining if additional compensatory mitigation is required. Therefore, the compensatory mitigation included with this NHDES wetlands application is limited to the permanent pole impacts in Priority Resource Area wetlands described above. Eversource proposes an inlieu fee payment to the Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund.

The project is scheduled for construction between summer 2024 and winter 2026.

January 26, 2024 Dalton Town Clerk Page 2 of 2

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A self-addressed return envelope is included for you to return the original signature page of the NHDES application form. Please sign and return the form at your earliest availability for our inclusion in the NHDES version of the application. Eversource and Stantec are happy to discuss the project and NHDES wetland permit application in greater detail with the Town of Sugar Hill, if requested.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the application materials.

Regards,

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

**Andrew Ackerman** 

Senior Environmental Scientist

Phone: 603.877.8198

Andrew.Ackerman@stantec.com

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- c. Ashley Friend, Eversource