

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

LICENSE NO. CRE 2023-026

December 1, 2023

**Application for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters and State Owned Land
in Rochester and State Owned Land in Milton**

This license is granted to Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) to construct and maintain its Y170 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Rochester and State-owned land in Milton, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. The public water crossing of the Y170 Line at the Cocheco River was previously licensed by the State under Order No. 25,487 (DE 12-345) in 2013. The State-owned land crossings in Rochester and Milton were not previously licensed due to oversight or the State not having ownership of the land prior to construction. With the approval of this license by the Department, the Y170 Line will be licensed in entirety.

I. BACKGROUND

On November 6, 2023, Eversource filed an application with the N.H. Department of Energy (Department), pursuant to RSA 371:17, requesting a license to construct and maintain its Y170 Line, an existing 115kV electric transmission line, to the extent that it extends over and across public waters and State-owned land between Structures 11 and 13 in Rochester, and State-owned land between Structures 83 and 87 in Milton, all as described in its application and depicted in its filings. On November 27, 2023, the Department's Enforcement

Division Staff filed a recommendation that the application be approved, and a license granted, based on the application filings, applicable statutes, rules, NESC requirements, and land ownership, as well as public need, safety, and impact. The application and subsequent docket filings are posted to the Department's website (energy.nh.gov) at [Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters | NH Department of Energy](#).

II. SUMMARY OF LICENSE

A. Crossing Locations and Construction

This license pertains to Eversource's Y170 Line, which is a 115kV overhead electric transmission line, originally built in 2013, extending over and across public waters of the Cocheco River in Rochester, and land owned by the State of New Hampshire in Rochester and Milton. A portion of the structures on the Y170 line was underbuilt to carry a 34.5 kV circuit, designated as the ES 386A Line, and will be subject to this license for Structures 11 to 13. The three existing 795 kcmil conductors, three 477 kcmil conductors, and OPG wires at the crossing spans will remain unchanged.

The proposed project for the Y170 Line encompasses replacing the wood laminate structures at the public water and State-owned land crossings with new weathering steel equivalents within 10 feet of the existing wood structures, so that the line can continue to function safely and reliably.

The Y170 Line crosses the public waters of the Cocheco River in the City of Rochester between Structures 11 and 12. The span commences at Structure 11 approximately 100 feet northeast from the east side of St. James Terrace, which is located approximately 265 feet northeast from the intersection of St. James Terrace and Patton Street. The waterbody crossing extends northeast approximately 314 feet to the east bank of the Cocheco River.

The proposed structure locations create a total span of 594.2 feet, with 247.5 feet crossing the Cocheco River.

The Y170 Line crosses State-owned land in the City of Rochester between Structures 12 and 13. The span commences approximately 420 feet southwest from where the Y170 Line crosses Chestnut Hill Road, which is approximately 475 feet southeast from the intersection of Chestnut Hill Road and Hillsdale Road. The State-owned land crossing extends northeast approximately 83.7 feet where it ends at Structure 13, located approximately 20 feet southwest from the edge of Chestnut Hill Road.

The proposed structure locations create a total span of 364.5 feet with 83.7 feet crossing State-owned land.

The Y170 Line crosses State-owned land in the Town of Milton between Structures 83 and 87. The span commences approximately 3,600 feet southeast from where the Y170 Line crosses McKeagney Road, which is approximately 940 feet northwest from the intersection of McKeagney Road and Old Wakefield Road. The State-owned land extends north approximately 1,553.9 feet to the property boundary with Map 49, Lot 21.

The proposed structure locations create a total span of 1,902.7 feet with 1,553.9 feet crossing State-owned land.

B. Regulatory Requirements

Eversource is responsible for obtaining any and all other federal, state, or local permits required by authorities having jurisdiction for the construction and installation of the proposed crossing. According to the application, a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (PBN) will be obtained for the work planned under this application in relation to temporary impacts associated with the structure replacements prior to the commencement of construction.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of Cocheco River as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from ACOE is not required.

C. Property Rights

According to Eversource, abutters to the Cocheco River in Rochester and State-owned land in Rochester and Milton will not be affected by the proposed project, because the crossing structures are being replaced and rebuilt within existing right-of-way easements.

D. Service to the Public and the Effect on Public Rights

According to the application, the existing crossings were constructed, operated, and maintained to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. Eversource affirmed that the proposed modifications will continue to meet that public need and will not substantially affect the public's use and enjoyment of the public waters of the Cocheco River in Rochester or State-owned land in Rochester and Milton.

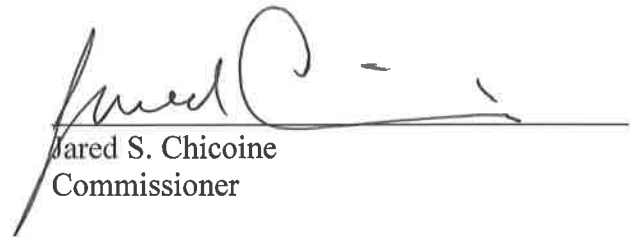
The line modifications are designed and will be constructed and maintained in accordance with N.H. Admin. R., Puc 306 and 2012 NESC rules. The minimum clearance requirements with respect to ground level and design conditions at 285° F as well as the FEMA 10-year flood level have been met.

II. DEPARTMENT DECISION

Eversource is authorized pursuant to RSA 371:17, *et seq.*, to construct, install, operate, and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters of the Cocheco River in Rochester and State-owned land in Rochester and Milton, as described in its application and depicted in its filings, and as specified in the Enforcement Division's recommendation. Based on the factual representations set forth in the application and the recommendation, the Department finds that the requested crossing amendments are necessary to meet the reasonable requirements of reliable service to the public, as required by RSA 371:17, and that the

requested license may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the public waters and subject land at the crossing locations in Rochester and Milton, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. Therefore, the application is approved.

By order of the Department of Energy of New Hampshire this 1st day of December 2023.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Pursuant to RSA 371:20, applicants and other persons directly affected by the issuance or denial of a license may appeal to the Public Utilities Commission within 30 days of the department's decision.