

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: January 20, 2010

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC



FROM: Tom Frantz – Director, Electric Division

SUBJECT: DE 09-199: Petition by Public Service Company of New Hampshire for a License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines over Mill Creek and the Ashuelot River in the City of Keene, New Hampshire

TO: Chairman Getz, Commissioners Below and Ignatius
Executive Director Howland

On October 16,, 2009, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition with the Commission under RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over Mill Creek and the Ashuelot River in the City of Keene, New Hampshire. PSNH states in its petition that the crossings are required in order that a new 12.47 kV distribution line may be constructed to serve growth in demand and to obtain a greater level of reliability in the Keene area. The new circuit will be added to the existing W-15 12.47 kV circuit that crosses Mill Creek (double circuit crossing) and to the existing W-9 and W-15 12.47 kV circuits that cross the Ashuelot River (triple circuit crossing). PSNH states that reasonable requirements of service to the public in the area cannot be met without the new facilities. The petition requests licenses for all 5 crossings as the existing 3 crossings are not licensed.

PSNH states that the new crossings will be operated at a voltage of 12.47 kV and that the structures of the 122 foot Mill Creek crossing and the 217 foot Ashuelot River crossing will be either located within the public right-of way or on land that it owns. PSNH also states that no permits from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services or the New Hampshire Department of Transportation are required. PSNH based its minimum clearance requirements on a 100-year flood elevation which exceeds the 10-year requirement of the National Electrical safety Code. PSNH further states that the projects are not located in the special wind region identified in Figure 250-2(e) of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

Staff employed the Liberty Consulting Group (Liberty) to review PSNH's petition. On November 2, 2009, Liberty filed an electronic memo of its review of PSNH's petition with Staff. Liberty stated that "...PSNH has provided sufficient information and data to justify construction of new electric lines across public waters at this location" and that "...PSNH assures the Commission that the new and existing overhead facilities will be properly constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the NESC, ANSI C2-2007." Liberty also stated that "...if the existing and proposed facilities are constructed, operated, and maintained as proposed in its filing, PSNH will provide safe and reliable service to the public based on sound engineering standards and that construction will be in accordance with the 2007 edition of the National Electrical Safety Code." Liberty further recommended to Staff that it recommend approval of PSNH's petition to the Commission.

Based on the consultant's review of the crossing which is attached hereto, Staff recommends the Commission approve the petition. Staff also recommends that the Commission shorten the *nisi* period in order to meet the project schedule.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter.