

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**BEFORE THE**

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_**

**PETITION OF GRANITE STATE GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY, INC. FOR  
LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN INTERSTATE GAS PIPELINE ACROSS  
PUBLIC WATERS AND LANDS**

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION:

Granite State Gas Transmission Company, Inc. ("GSGT") respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") pursuant to RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain a water crossing segment of an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline that will replace a deteriorated pipeline located within the Squamscott River. In support of this Petition, GSGT states as follows:

1. GSGT is a New Hampshire corporation having its principal place of business in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. GSGT owns and operates natural gas transmission pipelines and is a "natural gas company" under the Natural Gas Act, subject to regulations and orders issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC"). GSGT owns and operates a bidirectional 86 mile high pressure gas transmission pipeline rated at 492 psig MAOP that transports natural gas between Haverhill, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine.

2. The proposed license relates to one of the original, federally-authorized sections of the interstate pipeline located in Exeter and Stratham, New Hampshire, which was constructed during the 1950's and 1960's by a predecessor to GSGT. The relevant section crosses the Squamscott River between the Town of Exeter Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and privately-owned land in Stratham.

3. The existing 8" pipeline between Newfields Road in Exeter and Route 101 in Stratham was installed in the 1950's and consists of coated steel with cathodic protection. Over time, the coating has disbonded from the metal, making effective cathodic protection more difficult for this section of pipeline. In conjunction with GSGT's Integrity Management Program, GSGT has determined that the 0.9 mile section of 1950's vintage pipe in and adjacent to the Squamscott River must be replaced. Replacing the 8" pipe with 10" pipe would also allow for continuous internal pipeline inspection for a 24-mile segment. The upgrade to 10" pipe is not intended to increase transmission capacity and FERC has confirmed that any capacity increase would be incidental. Operation of the pipeline, including operating pressure, would not change. The new pipeline would be upgraded to steel pipe grade API 5L X42, 10.750 inch diameter, 0.365 inch wall, coated with Fusion Bonded Epoxy with Powercrete.

4. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has confirmed that the replacement is based upon sound engineering principles related to replacing disbonded pipe and allowing for internal inspection through a single operation. The replacement is federally authorized through a blanket certificate of public convenience and necessity.

5. The disbonded segment that crosses the Squamscott River would be replaced by way of Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) within submerged lands under the Squamscott River. GSGT, through the Office of Energy and Planning, has requested an easement from the state for the HDD within public lands. The Rivers Management Advisory Committee has determined that any potential impacts to the Squamscott River would be *de minimus* and the Council on Resources and Development has determined that the easement should be granted under the RSA 4:40 process. GSGT has requested a ruling from the Site Evaluation Committee that the

replacement pipeline does not require a certificate of siting and facility. Pre-construction permits and approvals are in process.

6. The location of the HDD is based upon GSGT's plan to co-locate within existing interstate pipeline and transmission corridors, while accommodating the affected Towns and private landowner with regard to future development potential and location of wastewater treatment facilities and conduits. GSGT has reached tentative agreement with all potentially affected parties with regard to the location of replacement pipeline. The attached plan depicts the general location of both existing and replacement pipeline segments. *See Exhibit 1.*

7. There would be no disturbance to navigation or to public use of the river as a result of the Commission granting a river crossing license. Excavation activities for the HDD will be temporary and limited in scope, with HDD bores being located outside of shoreland areas. The pipeline to be inserted into the HDD would be located entirely underground and well below the bed of the Squamscott River, thereby avoiding any impact on public rights to use and enjoyment of the river.

8. GSGT submits that it is necessary, in order to meet the reasonable requirements of uninterrupted interstate gas transmission service to the public, for the Commission to issue a license to construct and maintain a replacement segment of the interstate gas transmission pipeline across and under public waters and lands of the state.

9. GSGT also submits that the Commission license may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in affected waters and lands.

WHEREFORE, GSGT respectfully requests that the Commission:

A. Find that granting a license for construction and maintenance of a replacement segment of the GSGT interstate gas transmission pipeline under and across the Squamscott River may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in State waters and lands;

B. Grant GSGT a license to construct and maintain a segment of interstate gas transmission pipeline under and across the Squamscott River in Exeter and Stratham, New Hampshire; and

C. Issue an order *nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Concord, NH on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Granite State Gas Transmission Co., Inc.

By Its Attorneys,



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Attachment (Exhibit 1)

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