

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 15-285

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY

**Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines and
Optical Ground Wires Over and Across Public Lands Owned by the
State of New Hampshire in the Town of Londonderry**

Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,865 Granting License

February 11, 2016

On February 11, 2016, the Commission approved a petition filed pursuant to RSA 371:17 by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource), for a license to construct and maintain a 345 kV electric transmission line and optical ground wires at three locations over and across public lands owned by the State of New Hampshire in the Town of Londonderry. The new 345 kV transmission line will be known as the “3124 Line.” According to the petition, the existing transmission system cannot, under certain operating conditions, reliably serve southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts either at peak or off-peak load. The new line will resolve those reliability issues in southern New Hampshire. Eversource filed supporting attachments and exhibits with the petition. In order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, Eversource and New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (NEP) jointly proposed the 3124 Line project, referred to as the “Merrimack Valley Reliability Project” (MVRP), which will extend from NEP’s Tewksbury 22A Substation in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, to Eversource’s Scobie Pond 345 kV Substation in Londonderry. The petition indicates that the MVRP resolves regional reliability problems previously identified by ISO-NE in the Greater Boston Area Updated Transmission Needs Assessment issued in 2014. The portion of the MVRP located in New Hampshire is

approximately 17.9 miles extending from the Massachusetts border in Pelham to the Scobie Pond Substation in Londonderry (the Project).

Commission Staff reviewed the petition and recommended that the license be granted. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at <http://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2015/15-285.html>.

The Commission granted Eversource's request for a license to construct and maintain electric lines and optical ground wires over and across public lands owned by the State of New Hampshire in the Town of Londonderry by order *nisi* dated February 11, 2016, subject to certain conditions related to the safe construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed crossing. The Commission granted the order on a *nisi* basis to ensure that the public receives notice of this docket and has an opportunity to request a hearing. All persons interested in responding to the Commission's action may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing, which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than March 2, 2016. Any persons responding to such comments and requests for hearing shall do so no later than March 7, 2016. Following consideration of any comments and requests for hearing received, the Commission may further extend the final effective date of its order. The Commission's order *nisi* shall otherwise become final on March 11, 2016, unless the Commission otherwise orders.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov

amanda.noonan@puc.nh.gov

christopher.allwarden@nu.com

leszek.stachow@puc.nh.gov

ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov

rorie.patterson@puc.nh.gov

tom.frantz@puc.nh.gov