

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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

DOCKET NO. DE 20-115

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT
AND MAINTAIN ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS LANDS
OWNED BY THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE IN THE TOWNS OF
PETERBOROUGH AND TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or "the Company") a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire ("State"), hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") for license(s) to construct and maintain electric lines over and across lands owned by the State of New Hampshire in the Towns of Peterborough and Temple, New Hampshire. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead and surface mounted 4 kV electrical distribution line, designated as the Eversource 3155x9 circuit, over and across six parcels of land owned by the State of New Hampshire (Peterborough Map R001-015-000; Peterborough Map R001-017-001; Temple Map 1-11; Temple Map 1-12; Temple Map 1-1A; and Peterborough Map R001-019-000;), as shown in Exhibits 1 through 11. These State owned land crossings were previously installed by Greenville Electric Company and were not previously licensed by the Commission for reasons unknown to Eversource. The replacement of these crossings in connection with the Miller State Park project will be fully licensed under the petition.
2. Eversource is commencing a project rebuilding the infrastructure on the existing 3155x9 circuit to update the line to current codes and to continue to meet current, as well as future, projected electricity demands, which will impact the crossing locations which are the subject

of this Petition. The existing overhead portions of the circuit are believed to have been constructed circa 1927 and the portions located within conduit on the ground pre-date 1972. The total scope of the circuit reconstruction involves replacement of 20 pole structures along with the removal of the conductor located within surface mounted conduit on the upper portion of the mountain. Three of the 30 new poles to be installed are located within DOT ROW (poles 81/10, 81/12, and 81/13X). The remaining 27 poles will be installed on State owned land. Four of the 27 replacement poles (81/5, 81/6, 81/7 and 81/8) will be replaced with weathered steel structures and the remaining 23 poles will be replaced with Penta wood poles. Five of the existing wood poles will be eliminated entirely. On the upper portion of the mountain where the conductor is located within surface mounted conduit, 16 new wooden poles (of the 27 new poles to be located on State owned land) and new conductor will be installed and existing surface mounted conduit and conductor will be removed.

3. In addition to the reconstruction of the entire circuit as described in the preceding paragraph 2, this petition seeks to license existing underground conduit which will be unchanged by the reconstruction project. Exhibit 11 depicts the location of two existing underground conduits that run from Hand hole 81/29 T2J2 to two separate meters located on the side of the State Police Communications Building, depicted as "1 Sty. Brick Building" on said Exhibit. Those existing underground conduits are located within Dept. of Transportation ROW except for the final 2' and 3', respectively, before they connect to the meters. Those 5' of existing underground conduit are included in the summary schedule of State owned land crossed, at Exhibit 0 and in the total calculation under Note 4 to said Exhibit 0.
4. This petition also seeks to license the replacement of an existing overhead secondary service cable span running from pole 81/29 T2-2 to the Dept. of Environmental Services Building, with an underground secondary service running from a new HH 81/29 T2J1 to the DES Building, the final 40' of which is located outside of DOT ROW on State owned land parcel R001-019-000, as depicted on Exhibit 11 and included under the summary schedule of State owned land crossed added to Exhibit 0 and in the total calculation under Note 4 to said Exhibit 0.
5. Intentionally Omitted

6. This petition also seeks to license an underground conductor that will extend from pole 81/13 to the MIT building spanning 22' of State owned parcel Lot 1-11, as depicted on Exhibit 5 and included under the summary schedule of State owned land crossed added to Exhibit 0 and in the total calculation under Note 4 to said Exhibit 0. This span will utilize the existing underground conduit but replace the conductor with the specifications noted on the Exhibit 0 cable schedule, which will have the benefit of eliminating an existing splice at the base of pole 81/13.
7. This petition also seeks to license an existing conductor with the specifications noted on the Exhibit 0 cable schedule that extends from P 81/13 to P 81/13X, spanning 81' of State owned parcel Lot 1-11, as depicted on Exhibit 4A and included under the summary schedule of State owned land crossed added to Exhibit 0 and in the total calculation under Note 4 to said Exhibit 0.
8. The attached Exhibit 0 provides an overview of the 3155x9 circuit crossings over the State's land parcels within a new utility corridor area which was authorized by the New Hampshire Division of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) pursuant to a Use and Occupancy License approved by the Governor and Executive Council on August 26, 2020. The new utility corridor will be sixteen (16) feet wide from the boundary of the Miller State Park at the north boundary of the Rte. 101 Right Of Way to the MIT building (depicted on Exhibits 4 and 5) and twenty (20) feet wide from the MIT building to the summit termination point. The attached Exhibits also depict construction access routes which will be authorized by DNCR through the Director, Division of Parks & Recreation and the Director, Division of Forests and Lands, pursuant to a Special Use Permit which Eversource will obtain prior to commencement of the project that is the subject of this petition.
9. The design and proposed construction of the reconstructed 3155x9 circuit over the State's land parcels will be in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). Wire and structure specifications shall be as shown on the attached as Exhibits 1 through Exhibit 11 and as described in the "Pole by Pole Construction Details" document attached as Appendix 1.
10. The locations of the structures create the following crossing spans of State owned lands:

State of New Hampshire: Peterborough Map R001-015-000; Peterborough Map R001-017-001; Temple Map 1-11; Temple Map 1-12; Temple Map 1-1A; and Peterborough Map R001-019-000;; excluding NHDOT ROW areas, (Exhibits 1-11):

- i Structures: P 37/47 to Secondary Handhole 81/29T2J1 at the summit, including spurs from P 81/13 to 81/13X;; Hand hole 81/29T2J2 to State Police Communications Building; Handhole 81/29 T2-J1 to the DES Building; and P 81/13 to the MIT building
- ii Total Structure Span (ft): 5,565.5
- iii State Land Span (ft): 5,106.1

11. The conductor has been modeled and drawn in Exhibit 1 through Exhibit 11 to show the maximum sag conditions in reference to the State owned lands based on tensioning and environmental conditions noted on the Exhibit "Assumptions / Clarifications". There will be space for 4 communications cables below the Eversource conductor and those communications cables have been depicted on Exhibits 1 through 11 to demonstrate that they would satisfy NESC clearance requirements, however, installation of communications cables on the new poles is not part of Eversource's project.
12. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings over the State owned locations at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1) which is 14.5 feet to ground for open supply conductors rated 750V – 22 kV over spaces and ways subject to pedestrians or restricted traffic only, where equestrians, vehicles, or other mobile units, exceeding 8 feet in height. The actual minimum height over the State owned lands are depicted on the attached Exhibit 1 through Exhibit 11 and exceed NESC minimum requirements.
13. A field survey of the proposed utility corridor where the circuit reconstruction will be performed was performed by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau (NHNHB). All plant species present, 16 herbaceous and 9 woody species, were recorded. None of these species are tracked by NHNHB. None of these forest areas are in a condition or level of development that would warrant formal documentation as exemplary by NHNHB.
14. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) statutory permit by notification (SPN) is required for temporary impacts to nontidal wetlands and has been

obtained for temporary impacts in proximity to Strs. 81/3 and 81/5, approved by NHDES on April 27, 2020 (see NHDES File #2020-00867).

15. It is not anticipated that abutters on either side of the State owned land crossings will be affected by this petition as the closest abutters outside the Miller State Park are considerably distant from the new license area with the interior of the Miller State Park, excepting Pinnacle Towers Inc. which owns a parcel at the summit and whose infrastructure located thereon shall be served by the upgraded circuit. The Nature Conservancy also owns property in close proximity to the utility corridor. A representative from their organization participated in the initial design of this project.
16. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the State owned land parcels. Minimum safe line clearances above the land surfaces will be maintained at all times and the reconstructed circuit will improve safety for the public, particularly with respect to the removal of the existing surface conduit conditions. The use and enjoyment of the public of the State owned lands will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the re-construction of the circuit with pole mounted overhead line crossings.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the state owned lands which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the State's land parcels as identified and described in this Petition;
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and an order for its publication.

Respectfully submitted 4th day of December, 2021.

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

By: 

Erik R. Newman
Senior Counsel
Eversource Energy
780 North Commercial Street
P. O. Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105-0330
(603) 634-2459
Erik.Newman@Eversource.com