

**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-

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR AN AMENDED LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND
MAINTAIN ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS PUBLIC WATERS IN
NOTTINGHAM AND LEE, 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, hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), for license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters in Nottingham and Lee, New Hampshire. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the requirements for reasonable service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource L175 Line and originally constructed in 2009 pursuant to Order 25,073 in Docket 09-277, which included two spans over public waters comprising the North River in Nottingham and Oyster River in Lee that are the subject of this petition.¹

¹ Order 25,073 licensed six water crossings by the L175 Line - the two spans that are the subject of this petition as well as four additional crossings which are no longer identified on the current Public Waterbody List (2016 Rev) for the L175 Line water crossing locations: Bean River – Nottingham; Little River – Nottingham; Oyster River – Barrington; and Dube Brook – Lee. The L175 project does include structure replacements at two of those non-public water crossing locations: Strs. 19 - 20: Bean River, Nottingham; and Str 67 - 68: Little River, Nottingham.

2. The two public water crossing spans that are the subject of this petition are depicted on Exhibits 1 through 3A. Exhibit 1 encompasses a high level perspective of the locations of the two crossing spans. Exhibits 2 and 3 encompass the plan and profile depiction of the spans and Exhibits 2A and 3A embody a more detailed perspective including satellite imagery in the vicinity of the spans that identifies significant nearby roadways and notable businesses and community institutions in relation to the crossing locations. Google Earth coordinates for the approximate location of the structures supporting the two spans that are the subject of this petition are also included on Exhibits 2A and 3A to enable PUC staff and members of the general public to easily navigate to the subject locations via google maps to further orient themselves as to the location of the crossings. Additionally, the Plan View of Exhibit 2 notes the approximate number of feet and direction from the crossing structure spans to the nearest significant thoroughfare and the Plan View of Exhibit 3 shows the crossing structure span over NH Route 155.

3. This petition supports Eversource's plan to replace a total of four existing wood structures with steel structures: Structures 43 and 44 at a crossing of the North River in Nottingham and Structures 125 and 126 at a crossing of the Oyster River in Lee. The original laminated wood poles have been subject to environmental deterioration from rot, woodpeckers and insect damage and require replacement for system reliability and safety. The configuration of the four steel replacement structures are depicted in the Structure Details of Exhibits 2 and 3 hereto. Structures 43, 125 and 126 will be relocated within 10' of their current location. Structure 44 will be moved approximately 20' to the east of its current location to lessen temporary impacts to wetlands for access to accomplish the proposed structure replacement and future maintenance needs.

4. At the two crossing spans where the structure replacements discussed in the previous paragraph are located, the three existing conductors and one existing OPGW communications cable, having the specifications noted in the Cable Schedule on the attached Exhibits 2 and 3, will be transferred from the existing wood poles to the steel replacement structures.

5. The design of the four replacement structures for the L175 Line over the North River and Oyster River are in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and are depicted on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings, attached as Exhibits 2 and 3.

6. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the two crossing spans that are the subject of this petition are as indicated on the Structure Detail and Profile Views of Exhibits 2 and 3.

7. The location of structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing spans:

I. North River: Nottingham (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 43 to 44
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 549.5'
- iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 62.7'

II. Oyster River: Lee (Exhibit 3)

- i. Structures: 125 to 126
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 648.3'
- iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 30.2'

8. All conductors and cables have been drawn on Exhibits 2 and 3 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the two depicted public water crossings.

9. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1), which is 18.6' for water areas not suitable for sail boating in regards to the two public waters crossings of the North River and Oyster River depicted on Exhibits 2 and 3. The actual minimum height over the public waters is depicted on the attached Exhibits and exceeds the minimum requirement.

10. A 100-year flood elevation level was established based upon confirmation of the two crossing spans' location within Zone A according to the FEMA Flood FIRMette dated 10/23/20 and contour interpolation as noted in Note 3 on Exhibits 2 and 3.

11. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) will be required for temporary impacts to wetlands associated with the replacements of Structures 43 and 44 in Nottingham, as well as a Shoreland Permit by Notification

(PBN) for temporary impacts within the shoreland buffer to the North River in Nottingham and Oyster River in Lee. Said SPN's and PBN's will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. No other environmental permitting is required.

12. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portions of North River in Nottingham and Oyster River in Lee as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required.

13. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the two public water crossing spans that are the subject of this petition would be affected by the structure replacement scope of this project as the L175 Line is an existing line and the structure replacements at the two public water crossing spans will be performed fully within Eversource's existing utility easements and with coordination with the Dept. of Transportation in respect to the crossing of Route 155 within the span between Strs. 125 to 126 in Lee.

14. Eversource submits that the amended license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of the North River in Nottingham or Oyster River in Lee. Minimum safe clearances above the water surface will be maintained at all times. As such, the use and enjoyment by the public of the public waters will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the proposed scope of work.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the amended license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource amended license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters as identified and described in this petition;
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 11th day of December, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
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By Its Attorney



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