

Do the DES waivers of the specific requirements of Env-Wq 1503.12(d)(1 & 2) in its AoT permits to Eversource for its proposed X-178 and U-199 projects allow Eversource to not disclose what it may plan to construct in these easements in the next ten years and how the currently proposed construction, roads and crane pads may be connected to these plans?

Can the SEC make a decision on whether the proposed X-178 rebuild is a sizeable change without this information?

For the U-199 and X-178 (1, 2 & 3) AoT permits “DES granted approval to waiving specific requirements of Env-Wq 1503.12(d)(1 & 2), Env-Wq 1503.21(d)(6 & 7), and Env-Wq 1504.09”

“Env-Wq 1503.12 Measurement of Contiguous Area Disturbed; Inclusion in Plans.

(a) Subject to (b)-(d), below, for purposes of determining the need for an AOT permit or the amount of the fee required by RSA 485-A:17, the amount of contiguous area disturbed shall be the sum of the square footage of all areas proposed to be disturbed as part of the total project, including but not limited to areas associated with:

- (1) Roads and communal parking areas
- (2) Permanent stormwater controls;
- (3) Temporary and permanent methods for protecting water quality;
- (4) Utility installation, including wells and septic systems if applicable;
- (5) Temporary stockpiles;
- (6) Staging areas;
- (7) Borrow areas; and
- (8) Foundations and lot grading.

~~(b) The areas that will be disturbed for individual lot development shall be excluded from the calculation required by (a), above, only if:~~

~~(1) The project is a single family or duplex residential subdivision where no disturbance on any individual lot will occur until after the construction and stabilization of all other items of construction associated with the subdivision are complete; and~~

~~(2) There will be no earth moving across lot lines at any time.~~

[I assume the above section does not apply to the permits.]

(c) For any excavation, grading, and reclamation project, any actual or proposed terrain disturbance since May 4, 1981 shall be:

- (1) Deemed part of the total project;
- (2) Included in the calculation of the amount of contiguous area disturbed; a
- (3) Shown on the plans submitted for the project.

[Where are Eversource and DES documents on the 1985 rebuild?]

(d) Subject to (b) and (c), above, the amount of contiguous area disturbed shall include any actual or proposed terrain disturbance that occurs on the same property as the proposed project or is part of a larger plan of development:

~~(1) Within 10 years before the commencement of any terrain alteration activity for the proposed project; and~~

(2) Within 10 years after the terrain alteration activity for the proposed project ends.

(e) All areas described in (d)(1), above, and any area(s) described in (d)(2), above, that are already identified at the time of the application shall be shown on the plans for the proposed project.”

This waiver appears to mean that subject to (b) and (c), above, the amount of contiguous area disturbed shall **not** include any actual or proposed terrain disturbance that occurs on the same property as the proposed project or is part of a larger plan of development within 10 years after the terrain alteration activity for the proposed project ends.

It appears that Eversource applied for and was granted, by DES, a waiver from including in its application any alteration of terrain it plans on the X-178 within the ten years after the project is completed if it is built.

I request that DES clarify the meaning of this waiver.

This waiver begs the question also raised by the proposed roads and construction pads: What does Eversource plan to build next on the X-178? For what purpose (other than return on investment) are the roads and construction pads planned?

The first X-178 PAC presentation (2018) shows that Eversource has returned repeatedly to easements to replace structures in the “piecemeal” fashion it claims is too costly and

damaging, in its October X-178 presentation to the PAC.

DES is able to provide the SEC with the AoT applications and waivers for the Eversource partial replacement projects shown below. Did DES give Eversource waivers that allowed it to hide its plans to return to all these lines to replace more wood structures with taller metal structures able to carry 1272 ACSS?

Line	Proposed Replace (2018-2019)	Est. Replace Cost (\$M)	
A126	49	\$8.3	186 structures
H123	29	\$6.0	14 “
H141	44	\$7.7	216 “
K174	43	\$8.7	204 “
L163	64	\$14.0	302 “
A152	29	\$6.1	238 “
X178	56	\$11.2	590 “
NH Total	314	\$62.0	

The A-126 49 structure replacement project above was listed as “in-service” on 10/2020

- On 5/18/2023: Eversource presented to the PAC a project to replace 35/182 structures on the A-126, which was listed as “in-service” on 6/2024 with 76 wood structures remaining.

- The 2023 DES AoT permit waived specific requirements of Env-Wq 1503.12(d)(1 & 2), Env-Wq 1503.21(c)(2) and Env-Wq 1504.09.

- In 2015 all or part of the **H-123** was rebuilt in a reliability [project](#): “Eversource’s project in New Hampshire that involved rebuilding the 115-kV line K165, W157 tap (H123 renamed) – Eagle-Power St. It is part of the Southern New Hampshire Solution project. The estimated cost is \$5.4 million”

The H-123 29 structure replacement project above was “under-construction” in 6/2019.

- On 3/16/2023 Eversource made a presentation to the PAC to replace the 7 remaining structures and install OPGW. This project was listed as “under-construction” in 10/2023.

-On 3/2015 the H-141 Seacoast NH Reliability upgrade was listed on the Regional System Plan list as in-service.

The H-141 44 structure replacement above was listed as “in-service” on 3/2020.

- On 6/15/2023: Eversource made a presentation to PAC to replace 83 more structures.

- The 2023 DES granted approval to waiving specific requirements of Env-Wq 1503.12(d)(1 & 2), Env-Wq 1503.21(c)(2) and Env-Wq 1504.09,

- This project was listed as “under-construction” on 4/2/24, with 69 original structures to remain.

The K-174 43 structure replacement listed above was listed as “in-service on 3/2020.

- In 2020 Eversource made a presentation to the PAC to replace 55 structures, replace the 477 ASCR conductor with 795 ASCR and add OPGW. This project was listed as “in-service” on 10/2023.

The L-163 64 structure replacement project above was listed as “in-service” on 10/2020.

- In its 2020 AoT permit DES granted Eversource a waiver from Env-Wq 1504.02 but not Env-Wq 1503.12(d)(1 & 2). Were the 2021 project impacts included in this 2020 permit?

- In its 2020 application to the PUC for river crossing permits, Eversource counsel Erik Newman stated “This structure replacement and repair project is part of a reliability project for the L163 Line to continue to meet current as well as future projected electricity demands.” All the line projects in this document were “asset condition” projects not reliability projects.

- On 1/1/2021: Eversource made a [presentation](#) to the PAC to replace 62 structures and install OPGW, 155 structures to remain. On 10/24/2023 this project was listed as “in-service” with conductor and OPGW.

Eversource may have had trouble producing enough photos purporting to show meaningful damage to the L-163. Of the three photos it provided two show the same structure with one photo cropped and given different number:

L163 Line – NH



Pole Split and Woodpecker Damage –
Structure #205



Pole Split –
Structure #95

- In 2008 the Eversource **A-152** was partially rebuilt in a real reliability project: “The existing A- 152 line pole structures, most of which are of H- Frame type construction, will be replaced with new structures designed to handle the increased loads of the larger conductor. The existing 477 ACSR 18/1 phase wires will be replaced with 1590 ACSR 45/7. The existing underbuilt ADSS cable used in PSNH’s electric system communications system will be replaced with optical ground wire containing fiber optic cable, known as OPGW cable.

The A-152 29 structure replacement project in the chart above was listed as “in-construction” in 10/2019.

- On 10/20 2021 Eversource presented a revised presentation to PAC to replace 72 more structures. This project was listed as “in-service” on 3/23/2023.

These were presumably the structures replaced in 2008 as described in its 2021 river crossing permit: "The current maintenance project which is the subject of this petition will replace wood structures 1 through 72 that were installed in 2008, with steel structures."

When it replaces 30 year old structures Eversource lowers its “average structure life” and renders it invalid. Eversource’s structures are fully depreciated at around 40 years, so under current ISO “rules”, replacing structures at this age in asset condition projects appears to provide Eversource with more profits than replacing them only when needed.

- On 2/20/2023: Eversource made a presentation to the PAC to replace 21 structures. This project was listed as “in-service.”

