

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

**VERMONT ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC. and
VERMONT TRANSCO LLC**

Docket No _____

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF ASSIGNMENT OF EASEMENT RIGHTS FROM
VERMONT TRANSCO LLC TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY PURSUANT TO RSA 374:30**

Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. and Vermont Transco LLC (together as “VELCO”) pursuant to RSA 374:30, Puc 202.01(a), and Puc 203.06, hereby petition the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) for approval of an assignment of easement rights to Public Service Company of New Hampshire D/B/A Eversource Energy (“PSNH”) (the “Assignment”). More specifically, VELCO requests that the Commission determine that the Assignment will be for the “public good.” In support of this Petition, VELCO states as follows:

1. Vermont Transco LLC is a manager-managed limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Vermont and engaged in the transmission of electric energy within the State of Vermont and the State of New Hampshire, with its principal place of business in Rutland, Vermont.

2. Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. is a public utility corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Vermont and engaged in the management of the transmission of electric energy within the State of Vermont and State of New Hampshire, with its principal place of business in Rutland, Vermont.

3. Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. is the manager of Vermont Transco, LLC and manages all of Vermont Transco's assets, including its transmission lines and easements in the State of New Hampshire.

4. PSNH is a public utility corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Hampshire and engaged in the regulated transmission, distribution and sale of electric energy within the State of New Hampshire, with its principal place of business in Manchester, New Hampshire.

5. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RSA 374:30. See Docket No. DE 06-057, Order No. 24,628 (granting Order Nisi).

6. In 1957-1958, VELCO acquired easements for and constructed a 115 kV transmission line (the "VELCO Line") that runs from VELCO's Ascutney substation in Weathersfield, Vermont, and taps into a 115 kV transmission line that runs north-south on the New Hampshire side of the Connecticut River, which is owned by the New England Power Company ("NEPCO"), currently an affiliate of National Grid USA. The VELCO Line runs approximately one mile into Claremont, NH and the right-of-way is 225' wide (the "Claremont ROW"). The VELCO Line is located on the southern side of the 225' Claremont ROW.

7. In 1967, VELCO and PSNH agreed that, as part of a power purchase arrangement from the Merrimack generation station, PSNH would build a 115 kV transmission line in the northern half of the Claremont ROW that would run from the NEPCO line to VELCO's Ascutney substation in Weathersfield, VT (the "PSNH Line"). At the time, an agreement was reached in principle that VELCO would assign half of its rights in the 225' Claremont ROW to PSNH for the purpose of building the PSNH Line. The PSNH Line was constructed in 1967 but

no formalization of the assignment occurred at the time. The purpose of this Petition is to allow the parties to formalize the assignment originally agreed to in 1967.

8. The VELCO Line and the PSNH Line have been occupying the Claremont ROW in harmony since 1967. The companies have worked to maintain the right-of-way and their separate lines so as to support the safe and reliable operation of the lines and the transmission systems.

9. The companies have agreed to an Assignment arrangement to formalize the 1967 intent.

10. Through the Assignment agreement, which is attached to this Petition as Exhibit A, VELCO will transfer half of its rights in the 225' Claremont ROW to PSNH so that PSNH can continue to own, maintain and improve the PSNH Line. The details of the Assignment are contained in the Prefiled Testimony of Alexandra Fogg, attached as Exhibit B. PSNH has agreed to pay \$35,000 for the Assignment, which is the amount it agreed to pay in 1967, inflated to today's dollars.

11. The Assignment will allow the companies to continue to provide safe and reliable transmission service that results in significant benefits to the citizens and businesses of the State of New Hampshire and the surrounding region. The companies have provided such service to the public through the lines in this right-of-way for over fifty years and the Assignment allows them to perform necessary maintenance and upkeep so the same service can be provided into the future, memorializing the arrangement which the companies have successfully utilized since 1967.

12. No new infrastructure will be built as a result of this Assignment. It is simply formalizing an arrangement that has been in place for over fifty years.

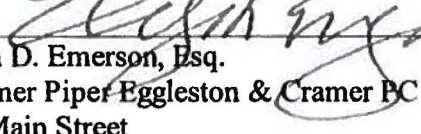
13. The Assignment will not harm VELCO's or PSNH's ability to safely and reliably serve their customers; in fact, it will enhance PSNH's ability. Moreover, the transaction will appropriately compensate VELCO and its customers for the value of the real estate assets.

14. RSA 374:30 requires that the Commission find that the transfer is "for the public good." For the reasons outlined above and in Ms. Fogg's testimony, the Assignment of VELCO's easement rights to PSNH as described in the testimony will be for the public good.

15. Accordingly, VELCO requests that the Commission approve the Assignment as being in the public good pursuant to RSA 374:30.

Respectfully submitted this 25th day of April, 2019.

VERMONT ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC and VERMONT TRANSCO LLC

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