

**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 LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND  
ACROSS THE AMMONOOSUC RIVER AND STATE OWNED LAND,  
IN LISBON, 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 an after-the-fact license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across certain public waters and State owned land in the Town of Lisbon. 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 34.5 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource 348X2 Line, over and across the public waters of the Ammonoosuc River and state owned land comprising a portion of the Ammonoosuc Rail Trail, identified by the Lisbon assessor as Map R18, Lot 6. The existing crossings of the Ammonoosuc River and Ammonoosuc Rail Trail have not been previously licensed by the State due either to oversight, or because the lands involved were in private ownership at the time of the original construction of the existing lines and no crossing license was required, but will be fully licensed pursuant to this petition. The B&M railroad previously provided a license for the railroad ROW crossing in FDA-175. The locations of the public water crossing and rail trail crossing span which are the subject of this petition are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1.
2. In February 2019, Eversource undertook a one-for-one replacement of Structure 393, after field inspection identified its need for replacement. In the course of replacing the original three pole wood structure with a three pole weathered metal structure, the need to change the type of arm from crossarm to davit arm was observed owing to the angle of the structure. Since the structure replacement was already in process, a license addressing the change to the structure could not be timely obtained. Neither the

conductors nor the neutral wire were replaced as part of the project; instead, the existing conductors and neutral wire were transferred to the new steel structure, which maintained the same above ground height of 70' and was constructed in the identical location as the original Structure 393.

3. The design and proposed construction of the replacement crossings for the 348X2 Line over the Ammonoosuc River and State lands are in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings, attached as Exhibit #2.

4. Wire and structure specification for the Ammonoosuc River and State land crossings are as follows:

I. Wire:

- i. Conductors: 266.8 kcmil ACSR 26/7
- ii. Neutral Wire: 336 kcmil ACSR 18/1

II. Structure Types and Pole Heights: From east to west:

- i. Str 393: 3 pole steel, 80' Overall Length (OAL), 70' Aboveground Height [AGH]
- ii. Str 394: 50' OAL, 43' AGH

5. The location of the structures creates the following crossing span:

I. State land crossing: Lisbon, Map R18, Lot 6 (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 393 to 394
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 921.8'
- iii. Public Land Span (ft): 65.8'

II. Ammonoosuc River: Lisbon (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 393 to 394
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 921.8'
- iii. Public Water Span (ft): 251.8'

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibits 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the water body and State land.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings over Ammonoosuc River and State land crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1). The Ammonoosuc River crossing requires at least 17 feet for 34.5 kV open supply conductors over water not suitable for sail boating. The State land crossings require at least 16.1 feet to land

for 34.5 kV open supply conductors. The actual minimum height over the Ammonoosuc River and State land crossing are depicted on the attached Exhibit #2 and exceeds the minimum requirements.

8. For the Ammonoosuc River crossing, the 100-year flood level was established based upon FEMA flood zone maps for that area, with an effective date of February 20, 2008. This elevation is based on the national Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 1988). For the purposes of calculating clearance, the 100-year flood elevation was used, as it was readily available. This is higher than the 10-year flood elevation required by NESC and provides a conservative clearance requirement.

9. The single structure replacement did not entail any temporary minor alterations of nontidal wetlands, nontidal surface waters, and banks adjacent to nontidal surface waters. Accordingly, a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services statutory permit by notification (SPN) was not required.

10. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portions of Ammonoosuc River as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required.

11. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the Ammonoosuc River or the State land crossing would be affected by the single structure replacement, as the 348X2 Line is an existing line, and the crossing structure was replaced within Eversource's existing utility easements.

12. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of Ammonoosuc River or in the State's land. Minimum safe clearances above the water surfaces were maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment by the public of the Ammonoosuc River and the State's land will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the replacement of structure 393.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters and State lands which are the subject of this petition;

2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters and State land as identified and described in this petition;

3. Authorize Eversource to submit any future proposed alteration(s) to the amended licenses granted herein at least 60 days prior to undertaking any such alteration(s); and
4. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 10th day of January, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY  
By Its Attorney



Erik R. Newman, Senior Counsel, Legal  
780 North Commercial Street  
Manchester, NH 03101  
(603) 634-2459