

**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 ISINGLASS RIVER IN STRAFFORD,
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 amendment to an existing license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across certain public waters in the Town of Strafford. 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 345 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource 385 Line, over and across the public waters of the Isinglass River in Strafford. This crossing was previously licensed by the PUC pursuant to Order 25483 in Docket # DE 12-176. The location of the public water crossing is depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1.
2. Eversource is commencing a project to replace a number of structures on its existing 385 Line, which will require transfer of the existing conductors and static wires at the Isinglass River crossings. The two wood structures to be replaced and depicted on Exhibit 2 are approximately 50 years old and have been subjected to environmental damage. Therefore, they require replacement to continue to function safely and reliability. No wires will be replaced as part of this project;

instead, existing wires will be transferred to the new structures, which will be a weathered steel replacement of the existing wood structures.

3. The design and proposed construction of the replacement crossing for the 385 Line over the Isinglass River is in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) as depicted on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings, attached as Exhibit 2. Replacement structure 87 will be constructed within 20' of the original wood structures to improve location on a difficult grade and Structure 88 will be constructed approximately 70' from the existing structure location to avoid ledge and adjacent wetlands.

4. Wire and structure specification for the crossing between structures 87 and 88 are noted on the Cable Schedule and Structure Detail portions of Exhibit 2.

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

- I. Isinglass River: Strafford (Exhibit 2)
 - i. Structures: 87 to 88
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 690.2
 - iii. Public Water Span (ft): 35.3

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

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossing over the Isinglass River at a height no less than what is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1). The Isinglass River crossing requires at least 23.2 feet for 345 kV open supply conductors over water not suitable for sail boating. The actual minimum height over the Isinglass River crossing is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 exceeds the minimum requirements.

8. Base flood elevations for the Isinglass River crossing location are based on FEMA Flood Maps delineating the 100-year flood zone boundaries, with an effective date of May 17, 2005. This is higher than the 10-year flood elevation required by NESC and provides a conservative clearance requirement.

9. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services statutory permit by notification (SPN) is required for construction access and work activities which involve the temporary minor alteration of nontidal wetlands, nontidal surface waters, and banks adjacent to nontidal surface waters and is applicable to the public water crossings. A SPN has been obtained in Strafford (2020-00035).

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

11. It is not anticipated that abutters on either side of the Isinglass River crossing will be affected by the proposed structure replacements, as the 385 Line is an existing line and the crossing structures to be replaced are 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 the Isinglass River. Minimum safe clearances above the public waters shall be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment by the public of the Isinglass River will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the proposed structure replacements.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license amendment 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 an amended license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters 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 12th day of March, 2020.

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



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