

**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 Souhegan River in Greenville and Land Owned by the State of New Hampshire, in Mason and Greenville, 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 a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the Souhegan River in Greenville and certain land owned by the State of New Hampshire (State) in Mason and Greenville, New Hampshire, and in support of this petition 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 354-kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource 367 Line, over and across the Souhegan River as shown in Exhibit 7. The Souhegan River crossing was previously licensed by the Commission under Order No. 9886 dated February 24, 1970, issued in Docket D-E5813.
2. Eversource also operates and maintains the same 367 Line over and across parcels owned by the State of New Hampshire in the Towns of Mason and Greenville, which are depicted in Exhibits 2-12. A PUC license (Order No. 9965) was previously granted on June 5, 1970 for the crossing in Mason of Assessor parcel Map A, Lots 6a and 6b, between structures 233-239. The crossings in Greenville of Assessors parcels Map 3, Lot 10, Map 3, Lot 21 and Map 3, Lot 39 between structures 251 and 258 and in Mason of Map A, Lot 29 between structure 242 and 244 have not been previously licensed by the Commission, 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.

3. Eversource completed two structure replacements (Str. 251 and 252) in 2015 along the 367 Line affecting the water crossing over the Souhegan River in Greenville and State owned land in Greenville comprising portions of Assessor Map 3, Lot 39, Assessor Map 3, Lot 21, Assessor Map 3, Lot 10 and the Mason Railroad Trail. Additionally, between 2015 and 2018 three (3) structure replacements in Mason (Strs. 237, 238 & 239) were completed that affected portions of the span across State owned Assessor Map A, Lot 6 and two (2) structures (252 and 256) were replaced in Greenville which affected the span over State owned parcel Map 3 Lot 10. Finally, in early 2020 Str. 258 which bookends the span in Greenville of Map 3, Lot 10 was replaced due to its degraded condition and accommodation of the landowner's restoration needs. A petition was not submitted prior to the aforementioned work performed between 2015 to 2020 being completed, and as such, will be licensed under this petition. No conductor, shield wire or neutral was added or replaced as part of these structure replacements; instead, existing conductors and wires were transferred to the new structures, which were steel structure replacements of the wood structures.
4. This petition also seeks to license replacement of: structure 233 whose span crosses portions of Mason Assessor Map A, Lots 6a and 6b; structures 242, 243, and 244 whose spans cross portions of Mason Assessor Map A, Lot 29; and structures 253 and 257 whose spans cross portions of Greenville Assessor Map 3, Lot 10. No conductor, shield wire or neutral shall be added or replaced as part of those structure replacements; instead, existing conductors and wires shall be transferred to the new structures, which shall be a steel structure replacement of the existing wood structure.
5. The attached Exhibit 1 shows the general location of the 367 Line crossings over the State owned land parcels and Souhegan River to be replaced as part of Eversource's project. The design and proposed construction of the replacement crossings for the 367 Line will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings for the crossings of the State-Owned Land and Souhegan River (see attached Exhibits 2 through 12).

6. Wire and structure specifications for the State owned land and Souhegan River crossing spans are as depicted on Exhibits 2 through 12.
7. The locations of the structures create the following crossing spans of State owned lands and public waters:
 - a. State of New Hampshire: Mason, Tax Map A, Lots 6a and 6b, (Exhibit 2-5):
 - i. Structures: 233-239
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 4,077
 - iii. State Land Span (ft): 3,403.7
 - b. State of New Hampshire: Mason, Tax Map A, Lot 29 (Exhibit 6)
 - i. Structures: 242-244
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,031
 - iii. State Land Span (ft): 535.1
 - c. State of New Hampshire: Greenville, Tax Map 3, Lot 10 (Exhibits 7-12):
 - i. Structures: 251- 258
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 5,030
 - iii. State Land Span (ft): 3,743.6
 - d. State of New Hampshire: Greenville, Tax Map 3, Lot 21 (Exhibit 7)
 - i. Structures: 251 to 252
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,426
 - iii. State Land Span (ft): 86
 - e. State of New Hampshire: Greenville, Tax Map 3, Lot 39 (Exhibit 7)
 - i. Structures 251-252
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,426
 - iii. State Land Span (ft): 80.5
 - f. Souhegan River: Greenville (Exhibit 7)
 - i. Structures 251-252
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,426
 - iii. Public Water Span (ft): 38
8. All conductors have been drawn in Exhibits 2-12 to show the maximum sag conditions in reference to the State owned lands and Souhegan River.
9. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the wire crossing over the Souhegan River at a height no less than is required by the 2017 NESC (Table 232-1) which is 23 feet for open supply conductors (345-kV) to water areas are not suitable for sail boating. Base flood elevations have not been determined by FEMA for the Souhegan River crossing location and the 100 year flood elevation indicated on Exhibit 7 is based on a comparison of surrounding elevations with the FEMA delineated 100-year flood zone boundaries. This

is higher than the 10-year flood elevation required by NESC and provides a conservative clearance requirement. The actual minimum height of the 367 Line over the Souhegan River is depicted on the attached Exhibit 7 and exceeds NESC clearance requirements.

10. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the wire crossing over the State owned land at a height no less than is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1) which is 24.8 feet to ground for 345-kV open supply conductors over roads, streets and other areas subject to truck traffic and 20.8 feet for spaces and ways subject to pedestrian or restricted traffic. The actual minimum height of the 367 Line over the State owned lands is depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 through 12 and exceeds NESC clearance requirements.
11. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) statutory permit by notification (SPN) is required for temporary impacts to nontidal wetlands and will be obtained prior to commencement of replacement to structures 233, 242, 243, 244, 253 and 257. Previous structure replacement related impacts were approved by the NHDES in UMN# 2019-00275 (Greenville) and UMN# 2019- 00324 (Mason).
12. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of the Souhegan River as a navigable water. As a result, a crossing permit from ACOE is not required.
13. It is not anticipated that abutters on either side of the Souhegan River or State owned land crossings will be affected by this petition, as the 367 Line is an existing line, and the crossing structures are being replaced and rebuilt within Eversource's existing utility easements.
14. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public waters of the Souhegan River and State owned lands of Mason and Greenville. Minimum safe line clearances above the Souhegan River and State owned land surfaces will be maintained at all times. The public use and enjoyment of the Souhegan River and State owned lands will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the replacement of the overhead line crossings.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting public lands which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant the Company a license to replace the structures on the public lands as identified and described in this Petition; and
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 4th day of May, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a
EVERSOURCE ENERGY

By Its Attorney



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