

**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 STATE OWNED LAND
IN MERRIMACK, 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 certain State owned land in the Town of Merrimack. 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 345kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource 3195 Line, over and across State owned land in Merrimack. The location of the two State owned land span which is the subject of this petition is depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1. No prior license was obtained for this crossing location on the 3195 Line, but the existing and proposed replacement facilities are depicted on the enclosed Exhibit 2 so that they may be fully licensed pursuant to this petition.

2. Eversource is commencing a project to replace a number of structures on its existing 3195 Line including structures 96 and 97 which creates a State owned land crossing span in Merrimack with structure 95, which will not be replaced as it maintains a satisfactory condition rating. Structures 96 and 97 are approximately 40 years old and have been subjected to environmental damage. They require replacement to continue to function safely and reliability. In addition to the noted structure replacements, optical groundwire (OPGW) will be replace the existing static wire from Structure 103 to the Eagle Substation, including the subject State owned land crossing span,

all within the Town of Merrimack. No other wires will be replaced as part of this project; instead, the existing conductor will be transferred to the replacement structures, which will be a weathered steel replacement of the existing wood structure.

3. The design and proposed construction of the replacement crossings for the 3195 Line over the State owned land is in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and is depicted on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawing attached as Exhibit 2. The two replacement structures which are the subject of this petition will be located within 10' of the original wood structures so as not to disturb the original structures' foundation while the wires are being transferred.

4. Wire and structure specification for the State owned land crossing are depicted and noted on the Structure Detail and Profile Views of Exhibit 2.

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

- I. State owned land: Merrimack (Exhibit 2)
 - i. Structures: 95 to 97
 - ii. Structure Span (ft): 1301.08
 - iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 386.02

6. The conductor has been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the State owned land span under the conditions and design tension noted in the profile view of Exhibit 2.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the crossing over the State owned land crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1). The State owned land crossings requires at least 24.8 feet to ground for 345kV open phase conductor over roads, streets and other areas subject to truck traffic. The actual minimum height over the State owned land crossing is depicted on the attached Exhibit 2 (35.54') and exceeds the minimum requirements.

8. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services statutory permit by notification (SPN) is required if construction access and work activities 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 was obtained for the impacts associated with the proposed replacement of structures 96 and 97 in the Town of Merrimack (SPN# 2020-00583).

9. It is not anticipated that abutters on either side of the State owned land crossings will be affected by the proposed structure replacements as the 3195 Line is an existing line and the crossing structures to be replaced are within Eversource's existing utility easements.

10. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the State owned land. Minimum safe clearances land surfaces shall be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment by the public of the State owned land 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 petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the State owned lands which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the State owned land as identified and described in this petition;
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated this 29th day of June, 2020.

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



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