

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

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

DOCKET No. DE 20-119

**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 NORTH BRANCH OF THE SUGAR RIVER IN CROYDON; STATE OWNED
LAND IN CROYDON AND NEWPORT; AND STATE OWNED LAND IN CLAREMONT, 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 public waters and State owned land in Croydon, Newport and Claremont, New Hampshire. 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 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource K174 Line, over and across the public waters of the North Branch of the Sugar River and State owned lands identified by the Croydon assessor as Map 14, Lot 16, by the Newport assessor as Map 206, Lot 5 and by the Claremont assessor as Map 60, Lot 12.
2. The crossing of the North Branch of the Sugar River in Croydon and State owned lands in Croydon, Newport and Claremont 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 locations of the public water crossings and State owned land crossing spans which are the subject of this petition are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1.

3. The crossing spans that are the subject of this petition are depicted on as a high-level perspective encompassed by Exhibit 1. A narrative description of the span locations are as follows.

The public water crossing of the North Branch of the Sugar River in Croydon is located west of the intersection of NH State Route 10 (also known as N. Main Street) and Cross Rd/Camel Hump Rd, where the K174 Line crosses NH State Route 10. The line heads west, crossing the North Branch of the Sugar River between Structure # 57 and 58, to where the line then intersects Croydon Brook Road.

The first of two State owned land crossings that are the subject of this petition is located in Croydon and Claremont and commences at Structure #74 in Croydon and ends at Structure #104 in Claremont. Structure #74 is located within the maintained right-of-way that crosses Fletcher Road approximately 0.45 miles from the intersection of Fletcher Road and Brighton Road. The State of NH boundary begins approximately 740 feet west of Fletcher Road and extends approximately 11,687.7' west to a property boundary between Structure #102 and #103, where the line crosses an additional 175' of state land between Structure #103 and #104. This State owned land crossing ends at the eastern edge of Cornish Turnpike where the maintained right-of-way crosses Cornish Turnpike approximately 0.15 miles south from the intersection of Perry Brook Rd and Cornish Turnpike.

The second State owned land crossing is located in Claremont east of NH State Route 120 where the K174 right-of way crosses the road approximately 0.37 miles north of the River Valley Community College located at 1 College Place. The State owned land span starts approximately 634 feet east from the edge of NH State Route 120 between Structure #153 and 154 and extends westerly where it ends at the edge of NH State Route 120 between Structure #155 and 156.

4. Additional structures which are proposed to be replaced under this license at the crossing locations depicted on the attached Exhibits are Strs. 57, 58, 74, 75, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 102, 103, 104, 153, 154, 155 and 156 and will all similarly be weathered steel replacements of original wood structures from 1967 installed within 10' of the existing structure, except in the case of Str. 98, which, owing to topography, will be installed within 30' of the existing structure. The aboveground height of the replacement structures is increasing by the following amounts over the original wood structures: Str. 57 + 18'; Str. 58 + 13.5'; Str. 74 + 13.5'; Str. 75 + 9'; Str. 88 + 9'; Str. 89 + 13.5'; Str. 90 + 13.5'; Str. 91 + 9';

Str. 92 + 13.5'; Str. 93 + 18'; Str. 94 + 18'; Str. 95 + 90'; Str. 96 + 13.5; Str. 97 + 9'; Str. 98 + 13.5/9'; Str. 102 + 13.5'; Str. 103 + 13.5'; Str. 104 + 13.5'; Str. 153 + 9'; Str. 154 + 9'; Str. 155 + 18' and : Str. 156 + 18'.

5. In addition to the aforementioned structure replacements, existing pole top mounted static wires between the North Road Substation in Sunapee and Str. 191 (See, Exhibit 1 Overview Plan) will be replaced with optical ground wire (OPGW) to enhance communications functionality as part of Eversource's ongoing reliability initiatives.

6. The design and proposed construction of the replacement structures and OPGW installation for the K174 Line over the North Branch of the Sugar River and State owned lands are in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings, attached as Exhibits 2 through 12.

7. Wire and structure specification for the crossings that are the subject of this petition are as indicated on the Structure and Profile Details of Exhibits 2 through 12.

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

I. North Branch Sugar River: Croydon (Exhibit 2)

- i. Structures: 57 to 58
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 384'
- iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 85'

II. State Owned Land: Croydon Map 14, Lot 16 and Newport Map 206, Lot 5 (Exhibits 3 to 11)

- i. Structures: 74 to 104
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 12,509'
- iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 11,861.7'

III. State Owned Land: Claremont Map 60, Lot 12 (Exhibit 12)

- i. Structures: 153 to 156
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,379'
- iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 634'

9. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibits 2 to 12 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public waters and State owned land.

10. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearances of the crossings at a height no less than what is required by the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1). The North Branch of the Sugar River crossing in Croydon requires at least 18.6 feet for 115 kV open supply conductors over water areas not suitable for sail boating. The State owned land crossings in Croydon (Map 14, Lot 16), Newport (Map 206, Lot 5) and Claremont (Map 60, Lot 12) require at least 20.1 feet to land for 115 kV open supply conductors over other areas traversed by vehicles, such as cultivated, grazing, forest and orchard lands, industrial sites, commercial sites, etc.. The actual minimum height over the public waters and State owned land crossing are depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 through 12 and exceed the minimum requirements.

11. For the North Branch of the Sugar River crossing (Exhibit 2) the 100-year flood level was established based upon FEMA flood zone maps for those areas with an effective date of May 23, 2006. This elevation is based on the North American 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.

12. All of the crossing spans that are the subject of this petition entail some temporary minor alterations of nontidal wetlands, nontidal surface waters, and banks adjacent to nontidal surface waters and therefore, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services statutory permits by notification (SPN's) will be required. Additionally, the span of the North Branch of the Sugar River in Croydon will create impacts to the protected shoreland for which a Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be obtained. The work to be performed under the license requested by this petition will not commence until said SPN's and PBN have been obtained.

13. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portions of the North Branch of the Sugar River in Croydon as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required.

14. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the public water and State owned land crossing spans that are the subject of this petition would be affected by the structure replacement and static wire replacement with OPGW, as the K174 Line is an existing line and the crossing span work was and will be performed fully within Eversource's existing utility easements and fee rights of way.

15. 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 North Branch of the Sugar River or in the State's land. Minimum safe clearances above the water surfaces and land were and will be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment by the public of the North Branch of the Sugar River and the State owned land will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the discussed structure replacement and static wire replacement with OPGW.

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 owned land as identified and described in this petition;
3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 28th day of January, 2021 .

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



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