

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

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

DOCKET No. DE 20-165

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN
ELECTRIC LINES OVER AND ACROSS PUBLIC WATERS IN DANVILLE AND
STATE OWNED LAND IN SANDOWN, 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 in Danville and State owned land in Sandown. 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 R193 Line, originally constructed in 1975, over and across the public waters of the Exeter River in Danville, New Hampshire and State owned land comprising the Rockingham Recreational Trail in Sandown, New Hampshire. These crossings have not been previously licensed by the PUC, either because the locations did not constitute public waters or State owned land at the time of construction, or owing to oversight, but will be fully licensed pursuant to this petition. The locations of the public water crossing span and State owned land crossing span which are the subject of this petition are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1.

2. This petition supports Eversource’s plan to replace four original wood structures at the two crossing spans that are the subject of this petition with steel structures. The four steel replacement

structures are depicted in the Structure Details of Exhibits 2 and 3 hereto. Replacement Structures 297B, 298, 300, and 301 will maintain the same configuration as their original wood counterpart, but Structure 297B will replace the existing wood two-pole configuration to a 3 pole dead-end structure to accommodate reconductoring that will be performed between Structure 297 and 297B over lands that are not subject to the PUC's jurisdiction under RSA 371:17 and which reconductoring is not part of this petition. No conductor or static wire will be replaced at the two spans that are the subject of this petition and the existing conductor and static wire will be installed on the replacement poles.

3. Replacement Structures 297B will be relocated approximately 10' east of its current location. Replacement Structures 300 and 301 will be relocated approximately 10' west of their current location. Replacement Structure 298 will be relocated approximately 150' west owing to its present location within a substantial wetland complex, in order to reduce impacts associated with access and future maintenance activity.

4. The design of the four replacement structures for the R193 Line over the Exeter River and Rockingham Recreational Trail are in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings, attached as Exhibits 2 and 3.

5. Wire specifications and loading condition to establish maximum sag for the crossings that are the subject of this petition are as indicated on the Structure Detail and Profile Views of Exhibits 2 and 3.

6. The location of the structures and max sag conditions creates the following crossing spans:

I. Exeter River: Danville (Exhibit 2)

i. Structures: 297B to 298

ii. Structure Span (ft): 490.2'

iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 57.6'

II. Rockingham Recreational Trail: Sandown (Exhibit 3)

- i. Structures: 300 to 301
- ii. Structure Span (ft): 416.9'
- iii. State Owned Land Span (ft): 44.6'

7. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibits 2 and 3 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water and State owned land crossings.

8. 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), which is 18.6' for water areas not suitable for sail boating and 28.1' for track rails of railroads, as the PUC Safety Division has advised be utilized for former railroad ROW. The actual minimum height over the public waters and State owned land are depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 and 3 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

9. A 100-year flood elevation level was established based upon FEMA flood profile maps accessed on June 25, 2020 with an effective date of May 17, 2005.

10. Temporary wetland impacts associated with access and work pads for installation of replacements Structures 297B and 298 will require a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services statutory permit by notification (SPN) in Danville. Additionally, a Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary impacts within the shoreland buffer to the Exeter River in Danville relating to said Structure 297B and 298 replacements. Temporary wetland impacts associated with access and work pads for installation of replacements Structures 300 and 301 will also be required in Sandown. All required SPN's and the PBN shall be obtained from DES prior to commencement of the structure replacement project.

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

12. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the public water crossing spans that are the subject of this petition would be affected by the line rebuilt activity as the R193 Line is an existing line and the structure replacement work at the two crossing spans that are the subject of this petition will be performed fully within Eversource's existing utility easements.

13. 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 Exeter River in Danville or the State owned land encompassing a portion of the Rockingham Recreational Trail in Sandown. Minimum safe clearances above the water surface and State owned land surface will be maintained at all times. Pedestrian use of the Rockingham Recreational Trail in Sandown in the vicinity of Structures 300 and 301 will be temporarily impacted during construction, but coordination with NH Dept. of Transportation and Department of Cultural and Natural Resources will be undertaken before commencing construction to develop an access plan and schedule that will minimize disruption of public access and ensure the public's safety at all times. As such, the use and enjoyment by the public of the Exeter River and Rockingham Recreational Trail 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 public waters and State owned land 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 19th day of October, 2020.

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



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