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

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

**DOCKET No. DE 20-185**

# 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 LEE AND ROCHESTER, 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 and license amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across public waters in Lee and Rochester, 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 G128 Line. originally constructed in 1953, over and across public waters of the Isinglass River in Rochester, New Hampshire. There are four public waters crossing spans which are the subject of this petition. The crossing of the Oyster River in Lee was constructed in 1978 and is not previously licensed, either as a result of inadvertent oversight or because the subject section of river was not a designated public water at that time and a new license is hereby petitioned for. The three crossings of the Isinglass River in Rochester were constructed in 2004 and are licensed in Docket 04-088 under Order No. 24,348 dated July 9, 2004 (copy enclosed), for which an amended license is sought to encompass the scope of work addressed in this petition at those three spans.

2. A high level perspective of the locations of the four public water crossing spans are depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1. A more detailed perspective including satellite imagery in the vicinity of the four crossing locations and identifying significant nearby roadways and notable businesses and community institutions in relation to the crossing locations is attached hereto as Exhibits #4 and 5. Google Earth coordinates for the approximate location of the five structures to be replaced at the four crossing locations are also included on Exhibits #4 and 5 to enable PUC staff and members of the general public to easily navigate to the subject locations via google maps to further orient themselves as to the location of the crossings. Additionally, the Plan View of Exhibits 2 and 3 notes the approximate number of feet and direction from the crossing structure spans to the nearest significant thoroughfare.

3. This petition supports Eversource's plan to replace five wood structures, Strs. 20 & 21 at the Oyster River crossing span and Strs. 119, 120 & 121 at the Isinglass River crossing spans, with steel structures. The configuration of the five steel replacement structures are depicted in the Structure Details of Exhibits 2 and 3 hereto. The five replacement structures will be relocated within 10' of their current location

4. The G128 Line project also encompasses replacement of the two existing shield wires at the Oyster River crossing span with two OPGW communications wires having the specifications noted in the Cable Schedule on Exhibit 2. The existing conductor having the specifications noted in the Cable Schedule on Exhibits 2 and 3 will be transferred from the original wood poles to the steel replacement structures, as will the one existing OPGW communications wire at the Isinglass River crossing spans.

5. The design of the five replacement structures for the G128 Line over the Isinglass River and Oyster River are in accordance with the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and are depicted on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawings, attached as Exhibits 2 and 3.

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

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

I. Oyster River: Lee (Exhibit 2)
   i. Structures: 20 to 21
   ii. Structure Span (ft): 470.8'
   iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 35'

II. Isinglass River: Rochester (Exhibit 3)
   i. Structures: 119 to 120
   ii. Structure Span (ft): 580.6'
   iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 125'

III. Isinglass River: Rochester (Exhibit 3)
   i. Structures: 120 to 121
   ii. Structure Span (ft): 691.3'
   iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 105'

IV. Isinglass River: Rochester (Exhibit 3)
   i. Structures: 120 to 121
   ii. Structure Span (ft): 691.3'
   iii. Public Waters Span (ft): 175'

8. 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 crossings.

9. 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. The actual minimum height over the public waters are depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 and 3 and exceeds the minimum requirement.

10. A 100-year flood elevation level was established based upon confirmation of location within Zone A according to the FEMA Flood FIRMette, 9/1/20 in the case of the Isinglass River

spans, and FIRMette dated 8/31/20 in the case of the Oyster River crossing, together with contour interpolation as noted in Note 3 on Exhibits 2 and 3.

11. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) and a Shoreland Permit by Notification (PBN) will be required for temporary wetland impacts and temporary impacts within the shoreland buffer to the Isinglass River in Rochester and Oyster River in Lee, in order to accomplish the structure replacements that are the subject of this petition. Both NHDES permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. No other environmental permitting is required.

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

13. 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 structure replacement scope of this project as the G128 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.

14. Eversource submits that the license and license amendment petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of the Oyster River in Lee and the Isinglass River in Rochester. Minimum safe clearances above the water surface will be maintained at all times. As such, the use and enjoyment by the public of the Oyster River and 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 and amended license 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 a license and amended license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters as identified and described in this petition;

3. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 1st day of December, 2020.

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

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