

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Inter-Department Communication

**DATE:** December 18, 2020

**AT (OFFICE):** NHPUC

**FROM:** Kenneth Walsh *KGW*  
Utility Analyst IV – Safety Division

**SUBJECT:** Docket No. DE 20-199 Public Service New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy Notice of Line Decommissioning – 311 Line over State-owned Land and Public Waters in Henniker, New Hampshire  
**Staff Recommendation**

**TO:** Debra Howland, Executive Director  
Thomas Frantz, Director, Electric Division  
Richard Chagnon, Assistant Director, Electric Division  
Lynn Fabrizio, Staff Attorney  
Randall Knepper, Director, Safety Division  
Paul Kasper, Assistant Director, Safety Division

The Safety Division’s review of the above notice consisted of the following elements:

- Notice contents and history;
- Review of the existing crossing(s) previously licensed by the PUC;
- Review of land ownership of existing pole structures;
- Review of public need and public impact, including applicability of other State regulations; and
- Conclusions and Safety Staff Recommendation.

On November 16, 2020, Public Service New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (ES), filed a Notice of Line Decommissioning – 311 Line over State-owned Land and Public Waters in Henniker, New Hampshire. ES requested this submittal be included in the docket for this filing. The scope of this project is to effectively remove the (16) pole structures and facility equipment to include all conductors on the de-energized 34.5 kV 311 Line, known as the “311 Tap Line”. This segment provided a tap circuit to the former Henniker substation, which had been de-energized and recently removed. ES asserts this 311 Tap Line no longer serves customers and therefore, has no purpose to remain intact.

As a matter of record, ES was previously granted a license from PUC as noted in Docket 00-073 pursuant to Order # 23,480 to construct this 311 line over the Contoocook River between poles 155/9 and 155/8 in the Town of Henniker.

ES provided details of the scope of this project and attachments that reflect the removal of the 16 pole structures and equipment, which Safety Staff reviewed along with conducting field inspections of the site in Henniker.

The scope of this project to remove pole structures and facility equipment begins east of Old Concord Road in Henniker at pole 155/14, which is located in the area of the NH DOT District 5 Patrol Shed. Removal work then proceeds east through state-owned lands and across the Contoocook River to pole 155/1 and then south ending with the removal of pole 153/Z1.

Field inspection revealed active removal of pole structure framing and conductors noting several pole structures removed as stated in ES filing documents. Based on the ES work schedule, ES line crews expect to have this decommissioning project completed within the next week, pending weather conditions. Safety Staff will continue to monitor the progress and completion of this project.

ES asserts their coordination with NH DOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) for this decommissioning project.

Safety Staff concludes this 311 Tap Line Decommissioning Project provides for an aesthetic improvement to this area with the removal of pole structures and facility equipment as it crossed state-owned land and public waters of the Contoocook River in Henniker, New Hampshire.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Based on the results of its review of the notice, its attachments, and all other supporting documents filed to this docket along with Safety Staff inspections, the Safety Division Staff recommends that the Commission:

- 1) Find that safety Staff finds no adverse safety impacts and recommends closing this docket.

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