

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DT 13-158**

**SOVERNET FIBER CORP.**

**Petition for Authority to Construct and Maintain Telecommunications Lines  
Over and Across the Mascoma River in the City of Lebanon**

**NOTICE AND SUMMARY OF ORDER NO. 25,604 GRANTING LICENSE**

**December 17, 2013**

On May 28, 2013, Sovernet Fiber Corp. (Sovernet) filed a petition pursuant to RSA 371:17 requesting a license to construct and maintain fiber optic communications cables over and across the public waters of the Mascoma River in Lebanon, New Hampshire parallel to the north side of Bank Street Extension. On October 25, 2013 and November 18, 2013, Sovernet filed revised schematics regarding the proposed crossing in response to issues raised by Staff. According to the petition, the proposed crossing will be placed between existing utility poles in an existing public right-of-way.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2013/13-158.html>.

Staff reviewed the petition and subsequently filed a memorandum stating that the proposed construction and designs conform to applicable sections of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). Staff recommended approval of Sovernet's petition, subject to certain conditions related to ensuring the safe construction, installation, operation and maintenance of the proposed crossing and related attachments.

Based on the information presented in Sovernet's petition and Staff's memorandum, the Commission has found that the proposed crossing is necessary for Sovernet to meet the reasonable requirements of reliable service to the public and that the requested license may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the affected waters, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. The petition has been approved on a *nisi* basis, subject to public notice of the order and an opportunity for public comment or hearing, to be effective as of a specified later date unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Sovernet is authorized by the Order *Nisi* to construct, install, operate and maintain fiber optic cables and other lines over and across the public waters described in its petition and depicted in its filings. All persons interested in responding to the Order *Nisi* may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than January 3, 2014 for the Commission's consideration; and any party interested in responding to such comments or request for a hearing shall do so no later than January 10, 2014. The Order *Nisi* shall be effective January 15, 2014, unless the Commission orders otherwise.