

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 14-197

Public Service Company of New Hampshire

**Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across the Warner River in Webster, the Blackwater River in
Hopkinton, and the Contoocook River and the Rolfe Canal in Concord**

SUMMARY OF ORDER NO. 25,725 GRANTING LICENSE

October 24, 2014

On July 23, 2014, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition to alter, rebuild and/or construct, operate and maintain a new overhead electric utility line at four existing crossings over the Warner River in the Town of Webster, the Blackwater River in the Town of Hopkinton, and the Contoocook River and the Rolfe Canal in the City of Concord, New Hampshire. According to the petition, the new structures and wires associated with the crossings are located within permanent right-of-way easements owned by PSNH. PSNH previously constructed and currently operates a 317 line that leaves PSNH's Oak Hill Substation and terminates at Unitil's Penacook Substation, both in Concord. It resumes at PSNH's former Davisville Substation site in Webster, and runs northwesterly to PSNH's Bradford Substation. PSNH indicated that when completed, the line will form a new connecting segment of the 317 line, running between Unitil's Penacook Substation and the former PSNH Davisville Substation site. The reconstructed line will be designated as a part of PSNH's 34.5 kV 317 line. The petition stated that these lines are integral to meeting the reasonable requirements of service to the public.

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://puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2014/14-197.html>.

Staff reviewed the petition and 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 PSNH's petition. (*See Staff Recommendation, October 7, 2014.*)

Based on the information presented in PSNH's petition and Staff's memorandum, the Commission found that the proposed crossings are necessary for PSNH 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 public waters and/or state lands subject to the proposed crossing, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. The petition was therefore approved, subject to certain conditions related to safe construction, installation, operation, and maintenance. The Commission delayed the effective date of its order to afford any member of the public who does not support the Commission's determination an opportunity to request a hearing and demonstrate why the petition should not be approved before the order goes into effect.

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 November 10, 2014 for the Commission's consideration; and any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than November 17, 2014. The Order *Nisi* shall be effective November 24, 2014, unless the Commission orders otherwise.