

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 15-284

NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY D/B/A NATIONAL GRID

**Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines and Shield Wire
Over and Across State Waters and Land in the Town of Windham, New Hampshire**

Summary of Order *Nisi* No. 25,907 Granting License

June 24, 2016

On June 24, 2016, the Commission approved a petition filed pursuant to RSA 371:17 by New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (NEP) for a license to construct and maintain the relocation of a 115 kV line and associated shield wires over and across Beaver Brook and a new 345 kV electric transmission line and associated shield wires over and across Beaver Brook and lands owned by the State of New Hampshire adjacent to Route 111, in the Town of Windham. The new 345 kV transmission line will be known as the “3124 Line” and the relocated 115 kV transmission line is known as the “Y-151 Line.” According to the petition, the existing transmission system cannot reliably serve southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts due to load growth and aging infrastructure, and therefore, additional capacity is needed to meet the region’s demand. In order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, NEP and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource (Eversource) jointly proposed the 3124 Line project, referred to as the “Merrimack Valley Reliability Project” (MVRP), which will extend from NEP’s Tewksbury 22A Substation in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, to Eversource’s Scobie Pond 345 kV Substation in Londonderry. The petition indicated that the MVRP will resolve the regional reliability problems previously identified by ISO-New England. The portion of the MVRP located in New Hampshire is approximately 17.9

miles extending from the Massachusetts border in Pelham to the Scobie Pond Substation in Londonderry (the Project).

Commission Staff reviewed the petition and recommended that the license be granted. 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/2015/15-284.html>.

The Commission granted NEP's request for a license to construct and maintain electric lines and associated shield wires over and across public waters and lands owned by the State of New Hampshire in the Town of Windham by order *nisi* dated June 24, 2016, subject to certain conditions related to the safe construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed crossing. The Commission granted the order on a *nisi* basis to ensure that the public receives notice of this docket and has an opportunity to request a hearing. All persons interested in responding to the Commission's action may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing, which states the reason and basis for a hearing no later than July 13, 2016. Any persons responding to such comments and requests for hearing shall do so no later than July 20, 2016.

Following consideration of any comments and requests for hearing received, the Commission may further extend the final effective date of its order. The Commission's order *nisi* shall otherwise become final on July 24, 2016, unless the Commission otherwise orders.