

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

CR 2021-021

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Petition for License

to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines

Over and Across the Merrimack River in Merrimack and Litchfield

ORDER OF NOTICE

On November 12, 2021, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a petition for a license to construct, maintain and operate its 345 kV electric transmission line (the 380 Line) over and across public waters in Merrimack and Litchfield. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Department, will be posted to the Department's website www.energy.nh.gov at [Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters | NH Department of Energy](#).

Eversource's 380 Line was originally constructed in 1970 over and across public waters of the Merrimack River in Merrimack and Litchfield. The Merrimack River crossing that is the subject of this petition was most recently licensed in Docket DE 10-322 under Order 25,190 which licensed the replacement of original wood structure 91 to a steel equivalent at the west side of the public water crossing span, with structure 90 remaining as the original wood structure. Structure 90 was later replaced in 2016 with a steel equivalent and was not licensed likely owing to oversight but will be fully licensed pursuant to this petition.

The 380 Line crosses the Merrimack River in the Town of Litchfield and Merrimack

between Structure 90 and 91. The waterbody crossing is located approximately 1,950 feet east from where the line crosses Charles Bancroft Highway in Litchfield, which is approximately 350 feet north from the intersection of Charles Bancroft Highway and Cummings Road. The crossing extends approximately 562 feet west to the west bank of the Merrimack River where it then terminates at the Eagle Substation located between the west bank of the Merrimack River and Pan Am railroad, and which termination point is approximately 325 feet west of where the crossing occurs. The Eagle Substation is located at the end of Star Drive which is off Daniel Webster Highway and on the east side of the Pan Am railroad tracks in Merrimack. In 2016, wood pole structure 90 at the east side of the Merrimack River crossing span was replaced with a weathering steel equivalent.

Eversource seeks a license to structure 90 at the east side of the Merrimack River which was replaced in 2016 to steel equivalent. Also included is the replacement of one existing pole-top shield wire with OPGW communication wire. The (3) existing conductors and the existing OPGW communication wire shall remain unchanged. According to the petition, Eversource will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services wetland Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) for temporary impacts to wetlands in both Merrimack and Litchfield prior to commencing work along the 380 Line.

The Department will review the filing to assess the necessity of the requested license to meet the reasonable requirements of reliable service to the public, as required by RSA 371:17, and whether the license may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in the identified public waters in Merrimack and Litchfield, as required for approval under RSA 371:20. The applicant and any interested party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that, the Department will hold a prehearing conference, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15, on January 25, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., at which any interested party may provide its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any interested party who wishes to participate in the proceeding shall file a written petition to intervene stating the interested party's basis for intervention consistent with RSA 541-A:32 and Puc 203.17 and specifying any objection the party has to the proposed crossing license. Petitions to Intervene shall be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department, with copies sent to the Petitioner that is seeking a license, no later than January 20, 2022. Failure to submit a Petition to Intervene at least three business days prior to the Prehearing Conference will constitute a waiver of the right to object to the Petition and the requested license; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the prehearing conference, Eversource, Department staff, and any intervening parties may hold a technical session to review the petition, as needed; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, pursuant to N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.12, Eversource shall notify all abutters to the proposed crossing by causing a copy of this order of notice to be sent, by any major delivery service that provides delivery confirmation, to the owners of all properties immediately adjacent and contiguous to the public water parcels that are subject to the proposed crossing. On or before January 15, 2022, Eversource shall file with the Department a list of all abutters so notified and copies of the return delivery confirmations. In addition, Eversource shall mail a copy of this order of notice to: (i) the Town Clerks of

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Merrimack and Litchfield, New Hampshire; (ii) the New Hampshire Attorney General; (iii) and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and publish a copy of this order of notice on its website no later than one business day after the date of issue.



Jared S. Chicoine
Commissioner

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Department of Energy, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-3670; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made no later than one week prior to the scheduled event.