

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CR 2021-005

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

**Petition for License
to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across State Land in Plymouth
and
License Amendment to Maintain Electric Lines
Over and Across Public Waters in Plymouth and Holderness**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On October 19, 2021,¹ Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource, or the Company) filed a petition for a license to construct and maintain an existing 34.5 kV electric distribution line (the 3196 Line) over and across lands owned by the State of New Hampshire in Plymouth and over and across public waters in Plymouth and Holderness. 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](#).

¹ Eversource filed an initial petition on July 2, 2021; resubmitted corrected exhibits on October 15, 2021 and resubmitted its petition with exhibits on October 19, 2021, as a result of errors identified by Safety Bureau staff at the Department.

According to Eversource, the original constructed date of the 3196 Line is unknown, but predates 1976 when the water crossing that is part of the current petition was licensed by the NH Public Utilities Commission in Order No. 12-219 on April 21, 1976. The line crosses State land in Plymouth and Holderness that includes an active railroad corridor in Plymouth owned by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) between Structures 99 and 100. The line also crosses an adjacent public water body, the Pemigewasset River, from Plymouth eastward to Holderness, between Structures 100 and 101. The crossing over NHDOT property is located approximately 335 feet northeast of where the 3196 Line crosses NH Route 3/25 (aka Daniel Webster Highway) in Plymouth, and approximately 700 feet southeast of that road's intersection with Parker Street.

Eversource seeks a license to replace two existing steel lattice structures (Structures 99 and 100) with weathering steel monopoles that will be embedded directly into the ground; Structure 101 was similarly replaced due to foundation rot in 2020 pursuant to Eversource's ongoing asset condition inspection program. Three existing conductors will be transferred to the new replacement structures. According to the petition, Eversource neither a Shoreland Permit by Notification nor a wetland statutory permit by notification (SPN) from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is required by the project, as there will be no protected shoreland disturbance or temporary impacts to wetlands as a result of the structure replacements, based on the Company's replacement of Structure 101 in 2020.

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 State land in

Plymouth and public waters in Plymouth and Holderness, 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 December 28, 2021 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 December 23, 2021. 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 crossings 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 State land parcels that are subject to the proposed crossings. On or

before December 23, 2021, 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 Plymouth and Holderness, New Hampshire; (ii) the New Hampshire Attorney General; (iii) the New Hampshire Department of Transportation; and (iv) 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.