

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CRE 2022-013

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

**Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and Across State
Owned Land and Public Water in Winchester, New Hampshire**

ORDER OF NOTICE

On April 26, 2022,¹ 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 overhead 345 kV electric transmission line (the 379 Line) over and across land owned by the State of New Hampshire and public waters in Winchester. 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 at [Utility Crossings Over State Lands and Public Waters/NH Department of Energy](#).

The 379 Line was originally constructed in 1970. The public water crossing at the Ashuelot River that is included in this petition was previously licensed in 1970 under DE 5812 (Order No. 9,885). The state-owned land crossing over the Ashuelot Rail Trail, was licensed through the prior owner, Boston and Maine Corporation, but has not been previously licensed by the State of New Hampshire owing to the State taking ownership of the property after the line was originally built. In its current petition,

Eversource proposes to: (1) replace Structure 531 with a weathering steel equivalent; (2) transfer the existing three phase conductors, single OPGW wire and single static wire to the new

¹ Eversource filed an initial petition with attachments on April 21, 2022 and resubmitted a corrected petition with revised exhibits on April 26, 2022, as a result of errors identified by Department Safety Bureau staff.

structures; and (3) license after-the-fact the 2018 replacement of original wood Structure 532 and Structure 533 with a wood equivalent that will remain unchanged under the current petition.

The 379 Line crosses public waters of the Ashuelot River in Winchester between Structures 531 and 532, and the Ashuelot Rail Trail, owned by the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), between Structures 532 and 533 in Winchester. Specific locations of the crossing structures are further detailed in the docket filings and illustrated in petition attachments.

According to the petition, the structure replacement work will be accomplished within existing right-of-way easements, thereby mitigating impacts and concerns of property owners affected by the project. Eversource will obtain a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) wetland Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) and Shoreland Permit Notification (PBN) for the work planned under this petition in relation to temporary impacts to wetlands, and the shoreland buffer and will be secured prior to the commencement of construction.

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 and public waters in Winchester, 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 May 23, 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 crossings 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 May 18, 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 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 May 18, 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 Clerk of Winchester, New Hampshire; (ii) the New Hampshire Attorney General; (iii) the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; (iv) the New Hampshire Department of Transportation; and (v) the

New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 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. **Queries regarding this petition and associated docket filings may be submitted to Crossings@energy.nh.gov.**