The Seacoast Reliability Project is a new, 13-mile transmission line that will provide reliable electricity to homes and businesses in the Seacoast Region. A portion of the Seacoast Reliability Project was buried in Little Bay in an existing cable corridor approximately 1 mile in length. The transmission line transitioned from overhead cables on land to three underwater cables for crossing Little Bay. The three cables were laid one at a time, in October and November of 2019. The cables are buried 3.5 feet deep in shallow water, and 5 feet deep in the Little Bay channel. The cables were delivered by a barge from the Piscataqua River.

This project has received permits and approvals from the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee (SEC), the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Eversource understands the natural significance of Little Bay and is dedicated to conducting work in an environmentally conscious manner.

**CABLE BURIAL METHODS:** Cable installation included the following three methods of burial:

**Jet Plow:** The majority of the cable burial was performed with a jet plow. The plow works by guiding the cable into the sea floor to bury it. It uses water jets to create a temporary path in the sediment. The volume of the water jets is controlled to minimize sediment disturbance. The sediment resettles around the buried cable. The jet-plow process is a well-established technology for underwater cable installation worldwide. Installation of each cable with the jet plow took approximately 13 hours.

**Hand Jet:** Due to water depth, the jet plow cannot bury the cable close to shore. In these areas, the cable is buried with diver-held hand jets that pump sea water through a hose to a hand-held nozzle. The hand-jet process is slower than the jet plow and took approximately 30 days to bury the three cables close to shore.

**Trench:** An excavator was used to bury the cables in the intertidal zone as they come ashore. The excavated trenches provides 3.5 feet of cover for the cables. The trenches join the hand-jet segment to the land portion of the transmission line.

**SITE PREPARATION:**

**Jet-Plow Trial:** A trial run of the jet plow was conducted on a 1,000-ft. section of the cable route. The jet-plow trial was required by NHDES and includes environmental monitoring for the same physical and chemical constituents required during the complete cable lays. The results were provided to NHDES for review and approval prior to conducting the actual jet-plow operation.

**Existing Cable Removal:** About 2,600 ft. of obsolete cable was removed from the path of the cable corridor in the bay. A cable-removal plan was approved by the NHDES and includes disposing of the pieces of cable by either recycling or appropriate disposal on shore.
PROTECTION MEASURES:

**Concrete Mattresses:** Concrete mattresses are mats of interconnected, precast-concrete forms that conform to the bottom of the seafloor. The mattresses are low in profile, approximately 9 inches high. The purpose of the concrete mattresses is to protect the cables from anchors, recreational activities and weather, when the full burial depth of 3.5 feet cannot be reached. Natural vegetation and aquatic organisms will help camouflage the mattresses.

**Salt Marsh:** The salt marsh will be preserved within the cable route and restored after project completion.

**Silt Curtains:** Bottom-sealed turbidity barriers are used in shallow areas to control suspended sediments during cable burial.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING: Eversource recognizes the high ecological value of Little Bay and has confidence that the effects from jet-plowing and hand-jetting during cable burial will be brief and temporary, with no long-term impacts to the bay. In addition, NHDES is requiring extensive monitoring to measure environmental effects, and modification to cable-burial practices, if needed, to control effects.

**Construction Monitoring:** During cable burial in Little Bay, Eversource employs Best Management Practices, as approved by NHDES, designed to protect the environmental resources in Little Bay. NHDES requires detailed monitoring to assess the effects of the cable installation on water quality, salt marshes, shellfish, eelgrass and other aquatic organisms. Monitoring plans for these environmentally sensitive areas were reviewed and approved by NHDES. Monitoring will be conducted during and after the construction, and the results will be submitted to NHDES. Water-quality effects are reduced where possible.

**Post-Construction Monitoring:** When the project is completed, monitoring of the bay floor and aquatic organisms will continue. The environmental monitor will assess the condition and recovery of these resources in the year following completion of the cable installation. The criteria for recovery and continued monitoring is fully described in the monitoring plans approved by NHDES. The restored salt marshes on both sides of Little Bay will be monitored for a minimum of five years to ensure full recovery.

FINAL SCHEDULE: All project work has been completed in Little Bay.

- **Jet-Plow Trial:** Complete
- **Existing Cable Removal:** Complete
- **Jet-Plow Cable Burial:** Complete
- **Trench Backfill after Cable Installation:** Complete
- **Hand-Jetting:** Complete
- **Concrete Mattress Installations:** Complete

*Photos are representative. Actual work and equipment may vary.*
PASSAGE COORDINATION: A District 1 Local Notice to Mariners was submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard for construction activity in Little Bay and includes instructions to safely transit the area. Access to Little Bay will always remain open, and Marine Patrol is on-site during construction operations to guide vessels safely around the active construction if necessary.