

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: January 20, 2010
AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Tom Frantz – Director, Electric Division



SUBJECT: DE 09-185: Petition by Public Service Company of New Hampshire for a License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines over the Pemigewasset River in the Towns of New Hampton and Bristol, New Hampshire

TO: Chairman Getz, Commissioners Below and Ignatius
Executive Director Howland

On September 29, 2009, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition with the Commission under RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over the Pemigewasset River in New Hampton and Bristol, New Hampshire. PSNH states in its petition that the rebuild of the existing 3114X 34.5 kV crossing is required to accommodate reconstruction of the adjacent bridge by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), State Project No. 13573A and that reasonable requirements of service to the public in the area cannot be met without the facilities.

PSNH states that the crossing will be operated at a voltage of 34.5kV and that the structures of the 394 foot crossing will be located within the public right-of way and that it possesses a pole license for both structure locations from the Towns of New Hampton and Bristol. PSNH also states that no wetlands permits or other permits are required. PSNH based its minimum clearance requirements on a 50-year flood elevation which exceeds the 10-year requirement of the National Electrical safety Code.

Staff employed the Liberty Consulting Group (Liberty) to review PSNH's petition. On November 1, 2009, Liberty filed an electronic memo of its review of PSNH's petition with Staff. Liberty stated that "...PSNH has provided sufficient information and data to justify construction of new electric lines across public waters at this location" and that "...PSNH assures the Commission that the new overhead facilities will be properly constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the NESC, ANSI C2-2007." Liberty also stated that "...if the proposed facilities are constructed, operated, and maintained as proposed in its filing, PSNH will provide safe and reliable service to the public based on sound engineering standards and that construction will be in accordance with the 2007 edition of the National Electrical Safety Code." Liberty further recommended to Staff that it recommend approval of PSNH's petition to the Commission. Based on the recommendation of our consultant, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the petition. I have attached the consultant's analysis for your review and for inclusion in the file.

Staff also recommends that the *nisi* provision be shortened to meet the needs of this project.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter.