

DE 01-233

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Petition for License to Cross Public Waters in the  
City of Dover, New Hampshire

Order Nisi Granting License to Construct and Maintain Electric  
and Fiber Optic Cable Over and Across Public Waters

O R D E R    N O.    23,860

December 6, 2001

The Petitioner, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), filed on November 30, 2001, a petition under RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain an aerial electric line, a neutral line, and a fiber optic cable, over and across the public waters of the Cocheco River in the City of Dover, New Hampshire. This is a rebuild of an existing electric transmission line that serves the Dover substation. The rebuild is needed in order to accept generation from the AES Granite Ridge (formerly AES Londonderry) cogeneration plant currently under construction in Londonderry, New Hampshire.

In support of its petition, PSNH submitted the location, and a plan and profile drawings of the crossing. There will be two rebuilt crossings of the Cocheco River for this 115 kV transmission line, line R169. The first crossing will be six hundred twenty nine feet of 1272 MCM ACSR 45/7 conductor which will replace the existing 795 MCM ACSR 36/1 conductor. The second crossing will be five hundred nine feet of 1272 MCM ACSR 45/7 conductor which will replace the existing 795 MCM ACSR 36/1

conductor. The corresponding overhead shield wire will be 7#8 Alumoweld which will replace the existing 110.8 ACSR overhead shield wire. An existing fiber optic communications cable will be removed and reattached to the rebuilt line. The existing line consists of wood pole H-frame and steel lattice structures. These structures will be replaced with new single shaft laminated wood divit arm structures.

The installation methods to be used in the reconstruction of the R169 line and fiber optic cable will avoid any impacts to any wetlands in the areas of the crossings, and therefore no wetlands permits are required. PSNH has stated and Staff agrees, that the use and enjoyment by the public of these public waters will not be affected as a result of the proposed aerial line crossings.

PSNH has attested, and Staff agrees, that the construction of the aerial electric lines will meet or exceed the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

In order to establish reliable service to the public, PSNH must construct electric lines over and across certain public waters. The definition of public waters contained in RSA 371:17 includes "all ponds of more than ten acres, tidewater bodies, and such streams or portions thereof as the Commission may prescribe." The Commission prescribes this crossing to be across public waters.

The Commission finds such crossing necessary for PSNH to meet its obligation to provide reliable electric service within its authorized franchise area. Accordingly, we find that the crossing is in the public good. Therefore, we will approve the petition on a Nisi basis in order to provide any interested party the opportunity to submit comments on said petition or to request a hearing.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED NISI**, that PSNH is authorized, pursuant to RSA 371:17 et seq., to construct, maintain, and operate the aerial electric lines over and across the Cocheco River in Dover, New Hampshire depicted on drawings submitted November 30, 2001, and on file with this Commission; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that all construction and future reconstruction to this approved crossing shall conform to the requirements of the NESC and all other applicable safety standards in existence at that time; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than December 10, 2001 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before December 14, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Petitioner shall provide a

copy of this order to the City Clerk of Dover, by first class mail, no later than December 10, 2001, and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before December 14, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission along with reasons why a hearing is necessary and what evidence or facts would be adduced at the hearing no later than December 14, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than December 17, 2001; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED,** that this Order Nisi shall be effective December 21, 2001, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New  
Hampshire this sixth day of December, 2001.

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Thomas B. Getz  
Chairman

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Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

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Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director & Secretary