



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: July 15, 2008

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM: Tom Frantz – Director, Electric Division

SUBJECT: DE 08-083: Petition by Public Service Company of New Hampshire for a License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines over the Ashuelot River in the Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire

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

On June 6, 2008, 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 Ashuelot River in Swanzey, New Hampshire. PSNH states in its petition that the existing crossing at this location which must be replaced as if it is not replaced, that upon the loss of another facility on their system, the Swanzey area cannot be reliably served. PSNH further states that the requested license is required to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public in the Swanzey area and to license a previous unlicensed crossing.

PSNH states that the crossing will be operated at a voltage of 12.47 kV and that the structures of the 215 foot crossing will be located within the public right-of way and that it possesses pole licenses from the Town of Swanzey. PSNH also states that no wetlands permits or other permits are required. PSNH based its minimum clearance requirements on a 100-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 June 16, 2007, 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 and that additional review of the proposed installation was performed for unusual wind conditions per NESC 250-2(e)." 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 Liberty's review of the filing and recommendation, Staff recommends that the Commission approve PSNH's petition.

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