

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. DG 16-____

**PETITION OF GRANITE STATE GAS TRANSMISSION, INC. FOR LICENSE TO
CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A DISTRIBUTION GAS MAIN ACROSS PUBLIC
WATERS**

Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. (“Granite”) respectfully petitions the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain a natural gas distribution main over public waters owned by the State of New Hampshire. In support of this Petition, Granite states as follows:

1. Granite is an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline company, operating 86 miles of underground gas transmission pipeline located primarily in New Hampshire and Maine. Granite provides its affiliate, Northern Utilities, Inc., with critical interconnection to major natural gas pipelines and access to domestic natural gas supplies in the south and Canadian natural gas supplies in the north.
2. Specifically relevant to this petition, Granite operates and maintains a segment of its gas transmission pipeline in the State of New Hampshire’s right of way along the Spaulding Turnpike and NH RT 16 in the City of Dover (“Dover”).
3. The State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (“NHDOT”) is currently implementing a major highway project that includes, among other things, the widening of the Spaulding Turnpike / NH RT 16 in Dover. In connection with this project, Granite is relocating its 10” diameter gas transmission pipeline to the eastern edge of the State’s right of way.

4. A portion of Spaulding Turnpike / NH RT 116 abuts Pomeroy Cove, which is part of the Piscataqua River and a New Hampshire tidal estuary. In connection with the above-described NHDOT project, Granite will relocate the segment of its gas transmission pipeline that currently exists within the State right of way along the edge of Pomeroy Cove to a location in the right of way that passes under Pomeroy Cove.

5. The relocated gas transmission pipeline will pass under approximately 1,300 feet of Pomeroy Cove, up to 25 feet from the approximate high tide line and at an approximate depth of 40-45 feet below ground. Granite will use the Horizontal Directional Drilling method to install the relocated 10" diameter pipeline consistent with the technical specifications attached hereto as Attachment A. Horizontal Directional Drilling is a trenchless method of installing pipeline that is accomplished in multiple stages, including site preparation, equipment setup, pilot bore, reaming, pulling the pipeline through the drilled bore, and site restoration. A stress calculation and analysis report for the 10" diameter pipeline to be located under Pomeroy Cove is attached hereto as Attachment B.

6. The Horizontal Drilling Process and relocation of the gas transmission pipeline will not present issues of environmental or safety related concern. Granite has completed notification regarding the project to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ("NHDES") and the Army Corps of Engineers. *See* Wetlands Utility Maintenance Notification attached hereto as Attachment C (with file number).

7. The relocation of Granite's gas transmission pipeline under Pomeroy Cove is a necessary prerequisite to the NHDOT's efforts to widen the Spaulding Turnpike / NH RT 16 in Dover. It is also critical to the continued provision of natural gas to the region.

8. Granite believes that the Commission license requested above will be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in affected waters. The proposed relocated gas transmission pipeline will not present any impediment to or safety concern for marine traffic in Pomeroy Cove. The relocated pipeline will not impose any additional burden upon the public interest and it will allow Granite to continue provide critical natural gas supply to the region.

9. Granite wishes to commence construction in the relocation project described herein in May 2016 to maximize the 2016 construction season. As such, Granite respectfully requests that the Commission grant the requested license on an expedited basis.

WHEREFORE, Granite respectfully requests that the Commission:

- A. Find that the license for the relocation of Granite's natural gas transmission pipeline currently existing in the State right of way along Spaulding Turnpike / NH RT 16 in Dover to an area under approximately 1,300 feet of Pomeroy Cove may be exercised without substantially affecting public rights in State waters;
- B. Grant Northern a license to relocate and maintain a natural gas transmission pipeline under approximately 1,300 feet of Pomeroy Cove; and
- C. Issue an order *nisi* and orders for its publication.

[Signature appears on the following page]

Dated at Hampton, NH on this 27th day of April, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc.

By Its Attorney,



Patrick H. Taylor
Senior Counsel
Unitil Service Corp.
6 Liberty Lane
Hampton, NH 03842-1720
Telephone: (603) 773-6544
Email: taylorp@unitil.com

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**Petition for a License To Cross Public Waters
Northern Utilities, Inc., Petitioner**

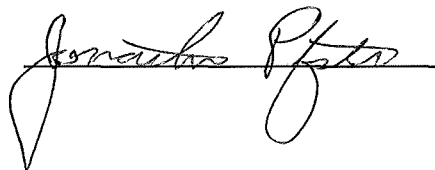
)
) DG 16-____
)

AFFIDAVIT

Jonathan Pfister, having been duly sworn, states under oath as follows:

1. I am over eighteen years of age; I am competent to provide this affidavit; and I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below.
2. I am employed by Unitil Service Corp. ("USC") as Manager, Gas System Operations.
3. USC is a corporation providing services to the subsidiaries of Unitil Corporation, a New Hampshire corporation.
4. Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Unitil Corporation.
5. I am familiar with the facts of this proceeding.
6. The facts alleged in the Petition of Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc. for a License to Cross Public Waters, dated April 22, 2016, and the Attachments appended thereto, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and understanding.

DATED this 22nd Day of April, 2016.

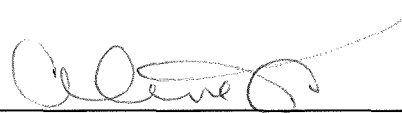


STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE)

COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM)

) :ss
)

On this 22nd day of April, 2016, then personally appeared before me Jonathan Pfister, the signer of the above instrument, who duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same.



Notary Public

Residing in Rockingham County

My Commission Expires:

**CELINE COTE
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of New Hampshire
My Commission Expires
August 14, 2018**