

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Inter-Department Communication

NHPUC 1JUN18PM3:42

DATE: June 1, 2018

AT (OFFICE): NHPUC

FROM:

Randy Knepper   
Director – Safety Division

SUBJECT:

Docket No. DE 17-169 Public Service New Hampshire d/b/a  
Eversource Energy  
Petition for a License to Construct and Maintain Electric Line Over  
and Across the Ammonoosuc River in the Town of Dummer, New  
Hampshire  
**Staff Recommendation**

TO:

Debra Howland, Executive Director  
Thomas Frantz, Director, Electric Division  
Leszek Stachow, Assistant Director, Electric Division  
David Shulock, Director, Legal Division

The Safety Division's review of the above petition consisted of the following elements:

- Petition contents and history;
- Applicable State Statute;
- Review of the existing crossing(s) already licensed by the PUC;
- Review of land ownership of existing pole structures;
- Review of NESC code requirements as described in Puc 300;
- Review of public need and public impact, including applicability of other State regulations; and
- Conclusions and Recommendations.

## 1. Petition contents and history

On October 16, 2017, Public Service New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (ES), filed a petition pursuant to RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain (1) Single-phase 7,200V distribution line, designated as the 25W1 circuit, over and across the public waters of the Ammonoosuc River in the Town of Dummer, New Hampshire. This is a relocation of existing circuit for a road and bridge reconstruction project. ES's existing 25H1 circuit is being relocated, a result of a NH DOT road and bridge improvement project along NH Route 110 (Hart Street). See a detailed NHPUC Safety Division map/schematic in Attachment A of this recommendation.

The proposed crossing is located on the southern side of the Old Route 110 Bridge and will span approximately 160 feet between two new wood structures. The structures on the southern side of the bridge, #21/3 and #21/2. These are both armless structures,

constructed using a single Class-2, 50 foot tall CCA pole (embedded 7 ft) for each. ES provided a location map, a project plan schematic and construction details of the structures as Exhibits 1 through 4 in its attachment to the petition.

The required technical information provided in this petition is said to be based on the 2012 National Electric Safety Code (NESC) C2-2012. Within its petition ES notes that the proposed crossing has been designed and will be constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with NESC. The design criteria used for the conductors transmitting electrical power at 7.2 KV will be (1) 1/0 ACSR cable with 6/1 stranding. The neutral will be 1/0 ACSR cable with 6/1 stranding. All clearance requirements were met using the NESC heavy conditions (0.5 inch radial ice) and at 32 deg F. This scenario was the governing condition which yielded the greatest sags and lowest clearances. ES provided cross sections in sufficient detail that also showed a 60 deg F condition although it did not yield the greatest sag. In its petition, ES provides sufficient detail to show how all required clearances from neutral wires to the surface of the water will be maintained (45.8 feet) with the lowest sag approximately 120 feet from the pole on the eastern bank. Staff verified the computed sags with SAG 10 commercial software using inputs as stated in the petition.

The water clearances are taken from the projected 100 year flood levels. This is more conservative than the 10 year flood levels allowed by the NESC (note 18 to Table 232-1). ES uses flood water elevations for the Upper Ammonoosuc River in Coos County that are identified on FEMA flood map #33007C0780D. The 100-year flood elevation for the river in this location is approximately 980 feet, and is based on the North American Vertical Datum of 1929 (NAVD29). The Safety Division verified the 469 foot flood level from the FEMA flood map.

## **2. New Hampshire statute referenced in petition**

**371:17 Licenses for New Poles.** – Whenever it is necessary, in order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, that any public utility should construct a pipeline, cable, or conduit, or a line of poles or towers and wires and fixtures thereon, over, under or across any of the public waters of this state, or over, under or across any of the land owned by this state, it shall petition the commission for a license to construct and maintain the same. For the purposes of this section, "public waters" are defined to be all ponds of more than 10 acres, tidewater bodies, and such streams or portions thereof as the commission may prescribe. Every corporation and individual desiring to cross any public water or land for any purpose herein defined shall petition the commission for a license in the same manner prescribed for a public utility.

**Source.** 1921, 82:1. PL 244:8. RL 294:16. 1951, 203:48 par. 17. 1953, 52:1, eff. March 30, 1953. 2013, 82:1, eff. June 19, 2013.

### **3. Review of existing license(s) and permissions previously granted by the PUC for this location of the Ammonoosuc River**

This public water crossing license application is part of the relocated 25H1 circuit for ES and had not been previously licensed by the Commission.

The Upper Ammonoosuc River, from the Juncture of Stony Brook in Berlin, New Hampshire, is listed under the category “Public Rivers and Streams” in the Official List of Public Waters (OLPW). The entire list of public waters can be accessed through the following web link:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/olpw.pdf>

ES asserts in the petition that the proposed crossing will be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of the Upper Ammonoosuc River. Minimum safe line clearances above the river surface and affected shorelines will be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment of the river by the public will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the overhead line crossing.

### **4. Review of land ownership of proposed pole structures**

In its petition, ES specifies that the construction of this crossing will span the Upper Ammonoosuc River, which is south of the Old Route 110 bridge (Hart Road) in Dummer, NH. Proposed pole #21/2 and #21/3 will be located on the east and west sides of the bridge within existing Town of Dummer right of way (Hart Road).

### **5. Review of NESC code requirements as described in Puc 300**

N.H. Code of Administrative Rules Puc 306 requires:

- (a) each utility shall construct, install, operate and maintain its plant, structures and equipment and lines, as follows:
  - (1) In accordance with good utility practice;
  - (2) After weighing all factors, including potential delay, cost and safety issues, in such a manner to best accommodate the public; and
  - (3) To prevent interference with other underground and above ground facilities, including facilities furnishing communications, gas, water, sewer or steam service.
- (b) For purposes of this section, “good utility practice” means in accordance with the standards established by:

(1) The National Electrical Safety Code C2-2012....

ES states that the proposed crossing has been designed and will be constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with 2012 National Electrical Safety Code C2-2012.

Safety Division Staff reviewed the specifications related to the design and construction of this crossing project as provided in the petition, the attachments, and all supplemental support documents, and found them to be in conformance with the applicable sections of NESC code C2-2012 and Puc 300.

**6. Review of public need and public impact**

In order to meet the reasonable requirements of electric service to the public, ES proposes to construct and maintain a single-phase 7.2 kV distribution line, designated as the 25W1 circuit, in Dummer, New Hampshire. The 25W1 circuit is an integral part of ES's electric distribution system in the area. ES's existing 25W1 circuit is being relocated as a result of a NH DOT road and bridge re-construction project.

ES asserts in the petition that the proposed license for this crossing may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of the Upper Ammonoosuc River. Minimum safe line clearances above the river surface and affected shorelines will be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment of the river by the public will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the overhead line crossing.

A separate docket, DT 18-027, will be used to review overhead telecommunication facilities which will be attached to the same poles. A separate license for Consolidated Communications will be requested.

This project does not require use and occupancy agreements be in place prior to construction of this crossing from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Safety Division Staff concludes the impact to the public will be *de minimis* and not measurable. The proposed crossing does not appear to affect the rights of the public in the public water of the Androscoggin River because minimum safe line clearances above the water surface will be maintained at all times. Shorelines will not be affected by this project.

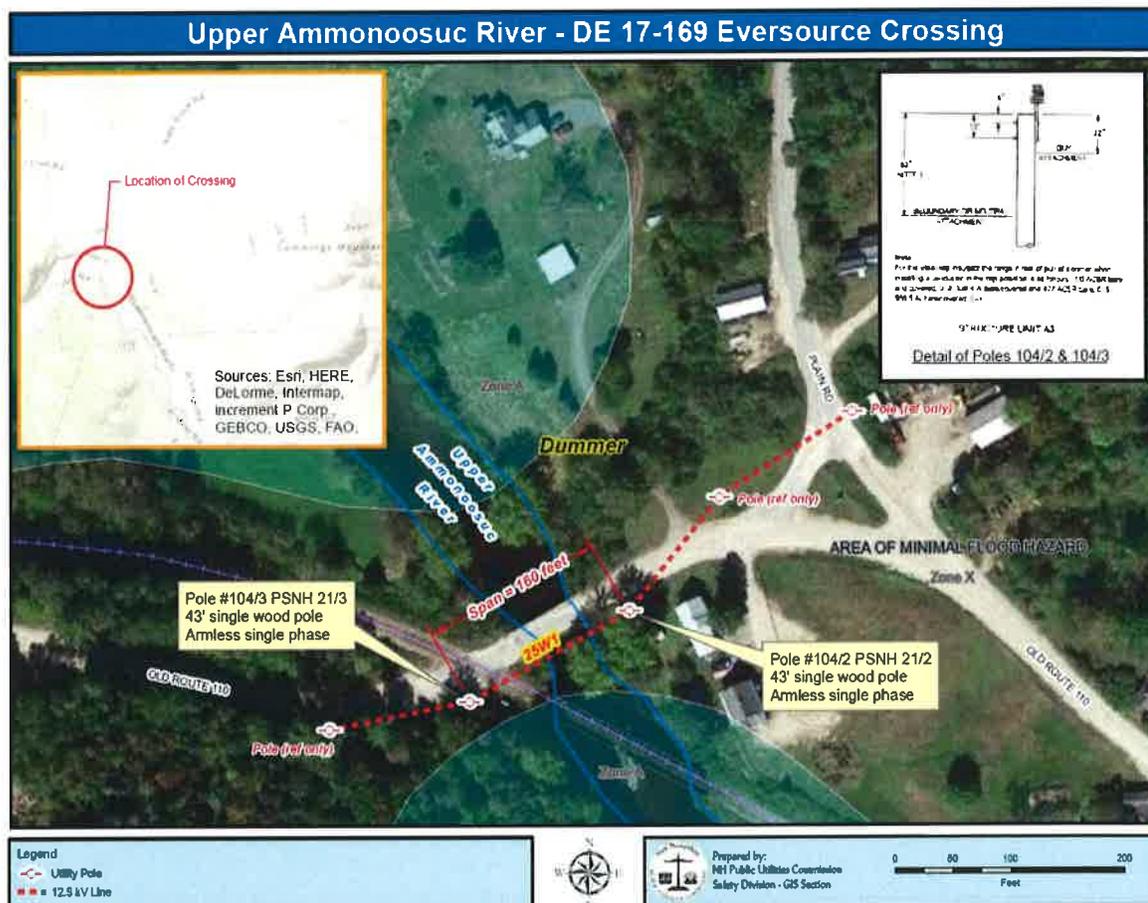
**Staff Recommendation:**

Based on the results of its review of the petition, its attachments, and all other supporting documents filed to this docket, the Safety Division Staff recommends that the Commission:

- 1) Find that the license ES requests in this docket may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters which are the subject of the petition;
- 2) Grant ES a license to construct, operate and maintain electric line, including neutral over and across the public waters of the Upper Ammonoosuc River, in Dummer, New Hampshire, as specified in the petition; and
- 3) Issue an Order Nisi and orders for its publication.

Attachment

# Staff Attachment A



**Figure 1:** 7.2 kV, designated as the 25W1 Circuit, a span of approximately 160 feet, across the Upper Ammonoosuc River in Dummer, NH. The structures on the south side of the bridge are armless structures designated #21/3 and #21/2 to be constructed with a single class-2, 50 foot tall, CCA pole (embedded 7 feet). The span of the river is approximately 100 feet at the east and west banks, with the span from pole to pole 160 feet.

**SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED**

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**Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.**

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**FILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with:
- DEBRA A HOWLAND  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NHPUC  
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10  
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.