

**The State of New Hampshire  
Before the  
Public Utilities Commission**

**Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
D/B/A Eversource Energy**

**Docket No. DE-19-\_\_\_\_\_**

**Petition of Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
D/B/A Eversource Energy for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over and  
Across the Androscoggin River and Land Owned by the State of New Hampshire,  
in Gorham and Randolph, New Hampshire**

Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource or the Company) a public utility engaged in the transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in the State of New Hampshire, hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the Androscoggin River and certain land owned by the State of New Hampshire (State) in Gorham and Randolph, New Hampshire, and in support of this petition states as follows:

1. In order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115-kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource S136 Line, over and across the Androscoggin River in two locations as shown in Exhibits 2-3. Eversource also operates and maintains the same S136 line over and across three locations associated with the Presidential Rail Trail (Rail Trail) owned by the State of New Hampshire, which locations are depicted in Exhibits 4-6. These crossings have not been previously licensed by the Commission, due either to oversight, or because the lands involved were in private ownership at the time of the original construction of the existing lines and no crossing license was required.

2. Eversource completed three structure replacements (Str. 264, 265, and 280) in 2017 and two structure replacements (Str. 230, 231) in 2018 along the existing S136 Line, affecting three spans of the Rail Trail. Additionally, Eversource intends to complete four structure replacements in 2020 (Str. 293, 294 and 298, 299) along the existing S136 Line, affecting two spans of the Androscoggin River. While structure 281 is not scheduled for replacement, it is included in this petition because it is on one side of a Rail Trail crossing, with structure 280, which is being replaced, on the other side. The five (5) crossings associated with these structure replacements are the subject of this petition. A petition was not submitted prior to the 2017 and 2018 work being completed, and as such, will be licensed under this petition. No conductor, shield wire or neutral wire was added or replaced as part of these pole replacements; instead, existing conductors and wires were transferred to the new structures, which were steel structure replacements of the wood structures.
3. The attached Exhibit 1, dated September 19, 2019, shows the general location of the S136 Line crossings over the Rail Trail and the Androscoggin River to be replaced as part of Eversource's project. The design and proposed construction of the replacement crossings for the S136 Line will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the Eversource Plan and Profile Drawing for the crossings of the Rail Trail and the Androscoggin River (see attached Exhibits 2-6).
4. Wire and structure specifications for the Androscoggin River are as follows:
  - a. Wire:
    - i. Transmission Wire: 795 ASCR 36/1
  - b. Structure Type and Pole Height:
    - i. Str. 293: 3-pole Steel Structure, 75' Overall Height (OAL), 65.5' Aboveground Height (AGH)
    - ii. Str. 294: H-Frame Steel Structure, 2-pole 65' OAL, 56.5' AGH
    - iii. Str. 298, and 299: H-Frame Steel Structure, 2-pole 75' OAL, 65.5' AGH
5. Wire and structure specifications for State lands are as follows:
  - c. Wire:

- i. Transmission Wire: 795 ASCR 36/1
  - d. Structure Type and Pole Height:
    - i. Str. 230: 3-pole Steel Structure, 70' OAL, 61' AGH
    - ii. Str. 294: H-Frame Steel Structure, 2-pole 75' OAL, 65.5' AGH
    - iii. Str. 264: 3-pole Steel Structure, 60/60/65' OAL, 52/52/56.5' AGH
    - iv. Str. 265: 3-pole Steel Structure, 60' OAL, 52' AGH
    - v. Str. 280: 3-pole Steel Structure, 70' OAL, 61' AGH
    - vi. Str. 281: 3-pole Wood Structure, 75' OAL, 65.5' AGH
- 6. The locations of the structures create the following crossing spans between poles:
  - e. Androscoggin River: 556.81 feet from Str. 293 to 294 (Exhibit 2)
  - f. Androscoggin River: 504.07 feet from Str. 298 to 299 (Exhibit 3)
  - g. Rail Trail: Randolph (Exhibit 4):
    - i. Structures: 230, 231
    - ii. Structure Span (ft): 352
    - iii. Public Land Span (ft): 57
  - h. Rail Trail: Gorham (Exhibit 5):
    - i. Structures: 264, 265
    - ii. Structure Span (ft): 932d
    - iii. Public Land Span (ft): 60
  - i. Rail Trail: Gorham (Exhibit 6)
    - i. Structure: 280, 281
    - ii. Structure Span (ft): 451
    - iii. Public Land Span (ft): 15
- 7. All conductors have been drawn in Exhibits 2-6 to show the maximum sag conditions in reference to the Androscoggin River and State lands.
- 8. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the wire crossing over the Androscoggin River at a height no less than is required by the 2017 NESC (Table 232-1) which is 20 feet for open supply conductors (345-kV) and 14 feet for overhead shield wires and neutral conductors to water areas not suitable for sail boating. The actual minimum height of the S-136 Line over the Androscoggin River is depicted on the attached Exhibits 2 and 3.
- 9. For the Androscoggin River crossings, the 100-year flood level was established based on a FEMA flood zone maps for the crossing area (Strs. 293, 294 Zone AE; Strs. 298, 299

Zone AE, effective date: February 20, 2013). At the Str. 293 to 294 crossing, the 100-year flood elevation is 797.5 feet; and at the Str. 298 to 295 crossing, the 100-year flood elevation is 811 feet. These elevations are based on the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). For the purposes of calculating clearance, the 100-year flood elevation was used. This is higher than the 10-year flood elevation required by NESC and provides a conservative clearance requirement.

10. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the wire crossing over the State's land at a height no less than is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) (Table 232-1) which is 25.2 feet to ground for 345-kV open supply conductors
11. A New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Utility Maintenance Notification (UMN) was required for temporary impacts to nontidal wetlands associated with construction activities. The UMN for Gorham and Randolph were approved by the NHDES in UMN# 2019-00269 (Gorham) and UMN #2019-00398 (Randolph).
12. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of the Androscoggin River as a navigable water. As a result, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required.
13. It is not anticipated that abutters on either side of the Androscoggin River or State land crossings will be affected by this petition, as the S-136 Line is an existing line, and the crossing structures are being replaced and rebuilt within Eversource's existing utility easements.
14. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public waters of the Androscoggin River and State lands of Gorham and Randolph. Minimum safe line clearances above the public land and Androscoggin River surfaces and affected shorelines will be maintained at all times. The public use and enjoyment of the Androscoggin River and State lands will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the replacement of the overhead line crossings.

**WHEREFORE**, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting public lands and public waters which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant the Company a license to replace the structures on the public lands and public waters as identified and described in this Petition;
3. Authorize Eversource to submit any future proposed alteration(s) to the amended licenses granted herein at least 60 days prior to undertaking any such alteration(s); and
4. Issue an order *Nisi* and orders for its publication.

Dated at Manchester, New Hampshire this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW  
HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE  
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By Its Attorney



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