

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

DOCKET No. DE 20-042

**PETITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE D/B/A EVERSOURCE
ENERGY FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ELECTRIC
LINES OVER AND ACROSS THE PEMIGEWASSET RIVER IN HILL AND NEW HAMPTON,
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 amendment to construct and maintain electric lines over and across certain public waters in the Towns of Hill and New Hampton. In support of this petition Eversource states as follows:

1. In order to meet the requirements for reasonable service to the public, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains an overhead 115 kV electrical transmission line, designated as the Eversource A111 Line, over and across the public waters of the Pemigewasset River in Hill and New Hampton, New Hampshire. This crossing was previously licensed pursuant to Order #12,219 in docket DE 76-22 issued April 21, 1976. The location of the public water crossing which is the subject of this petition is depicted on the Overview Map attached hereto as Exhibit #1.
2. Eversource has determined that Structure 79 on the A111 Line, which spans the Pemigewasset River to structure 81, requires immediate replacement to continue to function safely and reliability. The original red cedar structure was installed in 1953 and has been subjected to environmental damage. No wires will be replaced as part of this project; instead, existing conductors and static wire will be transferred to the new structure, which will be a weathered steel replacement of the existing wood structures.
3. The design and proposed construction of the replacement crossing for the A111 Line over the Pemigewasset River is in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), as shown on the

Eversource Plan and Profile Drawing, attached as Exhibit 2. Replacement structure 79 will be installed within 10 feet of the original wood structure, so as not to disturb the original structure's foundation while the wires are being transferred.

4. Wire and replacement structure specification for the Pemigewasset River crossing are depicted and noted on the Exhibit 2 Structure Detail and Plan View.

5. The locations of the structures create the following crossing spans between poles:

a. Pemigewasset River: Hill / New Hampton (Exhibit 2)

i. Structures: 79 to 81

ii. Structure Span (ft): 1,793

iii. Public Waters Span: 315.5

6. All conductors and wires have been drawn on Exhibit 2 to show the minimum clearance at maximum sag conditions in reference to the public water body span, as noted on Exhibit 2.

7. Eversource will maintain and operate the clearance of the crossings over Pemigewasset River at a height no less than what is required by the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC, Table 232-1). The Pemigewasset River crossing requires at least 18.6 feet for 115 kV open supply conductors over water not suitable for sail boating and the actual minimum height over Pemigewasset River is 37.4, as depicted on the attached Exhibit 2, which exceeds the minimum requirement.

8. For the Pemigewasset River crossing, the 100-year flood level was established based upon FEMA flood zone maps for that area, exported from FEMA data on January 23, 2020. This elevation is based on the national Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 1988). For the purposes of calculating clearance, the 100-year flood elevation was used, as it was readily available. This is higher than the 10-year flood elevation required by NESC and provides a conservative clearance requirement.

9. No New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services statutory permit by notification (SPN) is required for this crossing location, as the structure and associated access does not require work activities which involve the temporary minor impacts to nontidal wetlands, nontidal surface waters, or banks adjacent to nontidal surface waters.

10. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) does not regulate the subject portion of the Pemigewasset River as navigable waters. As a result, a crossing permit from the ACOE is not required. The ACOE owns property on both sides of the Pemigewasset River at the crossing span that is the subject

of this petition and Eversource has obtained a "Department of the Army Easement For Electric Power or Communication Facility Located on Franklin Falls Dam Project" granting, "the right to reconstruct, repair, replace, maintain, operate, inspect, patrol and remove it's A-111 line" upon Corps lands including those abutting said crossing span.

11. It was not anticipated that abutters on either side of the Pemigewasset River crossing would be affected by the proposed structure replacements, as the A111 Line is an existing line, and the crossing structure to be replaced is within Eversource's existing utility easements as noted on Exhibit 2.

12. Eversource submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of the Pemigewasset River. Minimum safe clearances above the public waters shall be maintained at all times. The use and enjoyment by the public of Pemigewasset River will not be diminished in any material respect as a result of the proposed structure replacements.

WHEREFORE, Eversource respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters and State lands which are the subject of this petition;
2. Grant Eversource an amended license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the public waters and State land 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 16th day of October, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
By Its Attorney



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