

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

DE 15-463

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Petition to Cross State Lands

ORDER OF NOTICE

On October 19, 2015, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a request for license to construct and maintain electric lines at thirteen locations over and across lands owned by the State of New Hampshire. The crossings are to be located in: Stark, Northumberland, Lancaster, Dalton, New Hampton, Canterbury and Pembroke, and the city of Franklin, New Hampshire. According to the Petition, Eversource has previously constructed and currently operates and maintains seven 115 kV and one 34.5 kV electric lines located over and across State lands in the above-reference towns and cities. These crossings have not been previously licensed by the Commission. A description of the location of each crossing is contained in an attachment to the Order of Notice. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2015/15-460.html>.

Eversource filed its petition for a license in connection with an application by Northern Pass Transmission LLC (NPT) to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee for a certificate of site and facility to construct a 192-mile-long high-voltage electric transmission line from the Canadian border to Deerfield. Eversource requires the license to rebuild the crossings

to allow NPT to construct the transmission crossings within the same easements and right-of-way. The State lands to be crossed by the rebuilt Eversource lines include the Nash Stream Forest and the Percy State Forest in Stark, the Cape Horn State Forest in Northumberland, the Groveton Branch of State-owned railroad at two locations in Lancaster and Dalton, The State Policy firing range on land of the N.H. State Department of Transportation (DOT) in New Hampton, two State rail trail locations, the Concord-Lincoln line of State-owned railroad at one location and a vacant DOT land parcel in Franklin, the Concord-Lincoln line of State-owned railroad at one location in Canterbury, and two parcels of land owned by the State Adjutant General in Pembroke.

RSA 371:17 requires any utility, corporation, or individual desiring to cross any public lands to petition the Commission for a license. Pursuant to RSA 371:20, the Commission shall grant a requested license if the petitioner demonstrates that the license may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in such public lands. RSA 371:21 requires the Commission to determine the compensation, if any, to be paid to the State of New Hampshire for rights on public lands for damage thereto occasioned by the structures for which the license is granted, subject to an appeal as provided in RSA 371:10. RSA 371:21 also requires the Commission to determine the amount of compensation to be paid to the state for rights on public lands.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether the license is necessary to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public; whether the license, as requested or as conditioned by the Commission, may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in waters or lands; whether the crossings will be constructed and maintained according to the standards contained in the National Electrical Safety Code; and whether and what amount of

compensation Eversource should pay to the State of New Hampshire. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on April 4, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, NPT, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow NPT to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

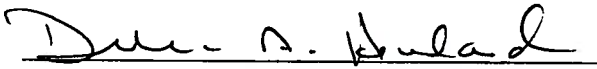
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to RSA 371:19, NPT shall notify the New Hampshire Attorney General and each town where the crossings will be constructed by providing a copy of this Order of Notice and attachment by United States Certified Mail, return receipt requested no later than March 21, 2016, such notice to be documented by affidavit listing the name and address of persons to whom notice was sent along with copies of the return receipts, filed with the Commission on or before March 30, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, NPT shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than March 18, 2016, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which the crossings are to be located, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before March 30, 2016; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that consistent with N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17 and Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to NPT and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before March 30, 2016, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before April 4, 2016.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this tenth day of March, 2016.



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

PSNH - Land Owned by the State Crossing Location Description - NHPUC Docket No. DE 15-463

Appendix #	All distance measurements and directions noted below are approximate and only provided for a general location description. For parcels of land the measurements are to the approximate center of the crossing.
1	Nash Stream State Forest in Stark NH, approximately 3,500 feet westerly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Bell Hill Road.
2	Percy State Forest in Stark NH, approximately 3,300 feet southwesterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Christine Lake Road.
3	Cape Horn State Forest in Northumberland, NH, approximately 5,800 feet northeasterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Page Hill Road.
4	Groveton Branch in Lancaster, NH, approximately 2,500 feet southerly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and North Road.
5	Groveton Branch in Dalton, NH, approximately 1,100 feet easterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Faraway Road.
6	State Police Firing Range in New Hampton, NH, approximately 250 feet easterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Route 132.
7	Rail Trail in Franklin, NH, approximately 450 feet southwesterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Route 11.
8	Rail Trail in Franklin, NH, approximately 450 feet southwesterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Route 11.
9	Concord-Lincoln Line in Franklin, NH, approximately 300 feet southeasterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Route 3.
10	Vacant Land in Franklin, NH, approximately 400 feet southeasterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Route 3.
11	Concord-Lincoln Line in Canterbury, NH, approximately 150 feet northwesterly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and I-93 southbound.
12	State of NH - Adjutant General's Department Land in Pembroke, NH, approximately 4,000 feet southerly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Chenell Drive in Concord, NH.
13	State of NH - Adjutant General's Department Land in Pembroke, NH, approximately 4,000 feet southerly of the intersection of the existing right of way corridor and Chenell Drive in Concord, NH.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

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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Docket #: 15-463-1 Printed: March 10, 2016

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
EXEC 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.