

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE
DOCKET NO. 2015-04**

AMENDED PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. QUINLAN

**APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE**

THE SEACOAST RELIABILITY PROJECT

March 29, 2017

Qualifications

1
2 **Q. Please state your name, title and business address.**

3 A. My name is William J. Quinlan and I am the President and Chief Operating
4 Officer at Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“PSNH” or the
5 “Company”). My business address is 780 North Commercial St, Manchester, New Hampshire
6 03101.

7 **Q. Please describe your employment experience and educational background.**

8 A. My background and qualifications were included in my direct pre-filed testimony
9 filed with the NH SEC Application dated April 12, 2016 and have not changed since then.

10 **Q. What is the purpose of this amended testimony?**

11 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide additional information to the SEC in
12 support of PSNH’s Amendment to the April 12, 2016 Application.

13 **Q. Have you reviewed the amended Project Description submitted to the SEC?**

14 A. Yes, I have.

15 **Q. Does the amended Project Description change anything in your previously
16 filed testimony?**

17 A. Yes. Since filing our Application on April 12, 2016, PSNH has continued to work
18 closely with residents abutting the corridor and host communities to contract to acquire property
19 rights to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts of the Project as described in the
20 original Application. As a result, PSNH is proposing to make several design changes to the
21 Project, including, siting approximately 2,680 additional feet of the Project underground through
22 the Newington Center Historic District and Hannah Lane residential neighborhood, altering the
23 route for the underground design in Newington through Gundalow Landing, relocating the site of
24 a transition structure in Newington, and modifying segments of the overhead design in both of
25 the Towns of Durham and Newington. These changes are intended to respond directly to the
26 feedback received from these stakeholders and the NHDOT.

27 **Q. Please provide a brief overview of the changes that are contained in the
28 Amendment and the reasons for making those changes.**

29 A. As anticipated in the Application, PSNH has been able to contract to acquire the
30 necessary property rights to alter the proposed design to address many concerns relating to the
31 Project’s potential impacts on these communities and abutting properties.

1 First, PSNH now proposes to site an additional 2,680 feet of the Project underground
2 across the Frink Farm, in the Newington Center Historic District and in the Hannah Lane
3 residential neighborhood. Through numerous discussions with the Town and its residents, PSNH
4 was able to secure contracts to acquire the necessary land rights to site the Project underground
5 for this additional segment to avoid and minimize potential impacts. For the Frink Farm, an
6 amendment to the existing conservation easement has been executed and approved by the
7 underlying property owners, the Town of Newington, and the Rockingham County Conservation
8 District, the New Hampshire Department of Justice, and the United States Natural Resources
9 Conservation Service. In addition to siting the Project underground in this area, PSNH will
10 remove the existing distribution line across the Frink Farm thereby restoring the Newington
11 Center Historic District to its original 19th century landscape and viewscape.

12 Second, the Town of Newington was concerned about the placement of the Project where
13 the transmission line travels along Gundalow Landing Road, as well as the potential impact of
14 construction in the area. PSNH worked closely with the Town and residents to successfully
15 contract to acquire additional easement rights to modify the location of this underground portion
16 of the transmission line.

17 Third, as originally discussed in the Application, the Town of Newington raised concerns
18 about the location of the transition structure located at the edge of Little Bay Road. As originally
19 proposed, PSNH intended to construct the transition structure within its existing electric utility
20 corridor. The Town of Newington was concerned about the potential visibility of the transition
21 structure at its proposed location. To accommodate those concerns, PSNH worked closely with
22 the Town of Newington to secure contract rights to acquire an additional easement across Town
23 owned property, commonly referred to as the Flynn Pit. Based on the acquisition of these
24 additional property rights, PSNH is able to modify the location of this transition structure. The
25 relocation of the transition structure will reduce its visibility in Gundalow Landing and from
26 Little Bay Road in the Town of Newington.

27 Fourth, PSNH received considerable feedback from residents abutting the corridor in the
28 Town of Durham and Newington regarding structure configuration. PSNH worked directly with
29 these residents, and where feasible, made design alterations to accommodate individual
30 landowner concerns. As a result of discussions and meetings with residents and other
31 stakeholders in the Towns of Durham and Newington, PSNH made line design alterations to

1 structures supporting the overhead line design. In Durham, the alterations allow for longer span
2 lengths and the elimination of a structure. At Route 108 in Durham, PSNH modified the design
3 of the 34.5kV line to reduce wetland impacts and conform to newly completed distribution line
4 and road construction at the transmission line crossing. Also in Durham, PSNH reviewed the
5 required structure height for the underwater to overhead transition riser. PSNH determined it
6 was feasible to reduce the riser structure from approximately 80 feet above ground to
7 approximately 70 feet above ground. In Newington, near Fox Point Road, PSNH redesigned a
8 section of the overhead transmission line to eliminate a structure located in the middle of the
9 open field between Nimble Hill Road and Fox Point Road. Also in Newington, PSNH relocated
10 two structures near Gosling Road to accommodate a new road easement for the Shattuck Way
11 extension.

12 Lastly, PSNH has made minor changes to the overhead design to accommodate
13 comments made by the NHDOT in their progress report submitted to the SEC on November 21,
14 2016. These changes include minor structure shifts and configuration changes.

15 **Q. In light of these changes, do the conclusions in your pre-filed testimony of**
16 **April 12, 2016 remain the same?**

17 A. Yes, they do. Based upon the additional outreach and discussions with
18 stakeholders in the host communities, PSNH has listened to and responded to the expressed
19 positions and concerns by making significant changes to the design of the Project. PSNH is
20 committed to continuing to work with individual residents and host communities to further avoid,
21 minimize, and mitigate potential impacts from the Project.

22 **Q. Does this conclude your amended testimony?**

23 A. Yes it does.