



Review of Tourism and Regional Recreation Seacoast Reliability Project

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INTRODUCTION

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (“PSNH” or “the Applicant”) has applied to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC”) for a certificate of site and facility to construct, operate, maintain and connect a 115 kilovolt (“kV”) electric transmission line from a substation in Madbury, New Hampshire to a substation in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a distance of approximately 12.9 miles. The Seacoast Reliability Project (“SRP” or the “Project”) route primarily follows an existing electric line right-of-way (“ROW”) within Madbury, Durham, Newington, and Portsmouth, including over two miles of underground or undersea cable. These sections consist of an underground segment which crosses under Main Street in Durham (2,100 feet), an underwater cable crossing between Durham and Newington under Little Bay (5,750 feet), an underground segment through the Gundalow Landing area and under Little Bay Road (1,800 feet), and an underground segment across the Darius Frink Farm, under Nimble Hill Road and past the Hannah Lane neighborhood (2,680 feet) to a point west of Fox Point Road in Newington. Almost all of the 12.9-mile route is within or along an existing electric line and/or transportation corridor.

The Independent System Operator for New England (ISO-NE) has determined that the seacoast region needs additional transmission capacity to support reliable electric delivery for current residents and businesses as well as the growing economy.

The SRP is located within Strafford and Rockingham Counties and the Strafford and Rockingham County regional planning commission regions. The Strafford Regional Planning Commission noted in its 2015 Regional Plan that the Strafford region’s population was the fastest growing area in the state of New Hampshire and the region’s proximity to large population centers, such as Boston and Portland, will continue to provide strong population growth and in-migration in the coming decades.¹ Strafford County and Rockingham County experienced the highest population growth rates in New Hampshire from 2007 to 2017 (as of July 1), with Strafford at 5% and Rockingham at 3.5%.²

Regional employment also has been growing rapidly: Strafford County, at 8.8%, saw the highest growth rate in employment in New Hampshire from 2006 to 2016. Rockingham County, at 6.2%, tied for the second-fastest rate. In comparison, state-wide employment grew by 2.9% during this period.³

Indications are that regional growth is continuing. From 2016 to 2017 (as of July 1), Strafford was the fastest growing county in the state at 1.1%, with Rockingham a close second at 0.8%. In

¹ [Local Solutions for the Strafford Region, Regional Master Plan](#) (January 2015)

² United States Census Bureau, Total Population, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2007 – 2009; United States Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population, April 1, 2010 – July 1, 2017; New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives, Population Estimates.

³ New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic + Labor Market Information Bureau (ELMI), New Hampshire Community Profiles, Labor Force, Annual Average 2006 – 2016, January 2018.

comparison, the overall population in New Hampshire grew by an estimated 0.6%, and four New Hampshire counties lost population.⁴

Looking into the future, the Strafford Region Planning Commission projects that its communities will increase in population by approximately 13% from 2010 to 2040 (Local Solutions for the Stafford Region MP, page 29). The Durham Master Plan (Demographics and Housing Chapter) anticipates that the town's population will increase by about 17% between 2010 and 2040, nearly twice what is projected for the State. The Portsmouth Housing Existing Conditions Report notes that although Portsmouth itself is expected to see marginal growth in the coming decade, other communities in the region are expected to experience substantial growth.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM ECONOMY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Travel and tourism is an important part of New Hampshire's economy. According to reports prepared for the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development by Dean Runyan Associates, total direct travel spending in the state was over \$5.5 billion and direct travel-generated employment was 47,900 in 2017. Direct spending is defined as purchases by travelers during their trip including lodging and taxes at the point of sale. Direct employment includes both full and part-time positions of wage and salary workers and proprietors. The economic benefits of travel and tourism are even greater when indirect spending and employment is considered as visitor-oriented businesses and their employees purchase additional goods and services.

In 2015, The Institute for New Hampshire Studies at Plymouth State University estimated the percentages of direct traveler spending for fiscal year 2014 as follows: (1) eating and drinking (about 31.1% of direct travel spending); (2) accommodations (16.7%); (3) recreation (15.7%); (4) retail stores (14.4%); (5) ground transportation (8.9%); (6) food stores (7.6%); and (7) air transportation and services (5.6%).

The NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development divides the state into seven travel regions, including the seacoast, and reports prepared by Dean Runyan Associates include spending and employment statistics within each region. Total direct travel spending in the seacoast region in 2017 was \$1.554 billion and direct employment was 10,900 jobs. The Merrimack Valley Region had the highest travel spending and employment in NH, followed by the Seacoast Region and the White Mountains Region. Summer is, by far, the busiest season. Both spring and fall spending and employment is about 50% less than the summer season. Winter has the lowest spending and employment. In general, the majority of New Hampshire's travelers are from New England and the Northeast, including many from New Hampshire.

According to on-line visitor surveys conducted between 2009 and 2013 by the Institute for New Hampshire Studies (INHS), the top reasons for visiting New Hampshire were as follows: (1)

⁴ United States Census Bureau, Total Population, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2007 – 2009; United States Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population, April 1, 2010 – July 1, 2017; and New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives, Population Estimates.

visit friends and relatives (37%); (2) pleasure/personal/vacation (25%), (3) outdoor recreation (13%); (4) business (10%); (5) entertainment/sightseeing (9%) and (6) other (6%).

The NH Site Evaluation Committee's (SEC) administrative rules requires Applicants to provide an assessment of the effect of a proposed project on tourism and recreation pursuant to Site 301.09 (b)(5). This report is intended to address this requirement by describing tourism and regional recreation within Project communities and the seacoast area. Town-specific recreation is described in the Land Use and Planning Report.

IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM ATTRACTIONS

As noted above, travel and tourism is a broad term encompassing restaurants, lodging, retail sales, arts, culture and entertainment, transportation and recreation. The most significant tourism and recreation attractions in the seacoast area were objectively identified by examining publications produced and distributed by the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development, other state agencies and associations, and regional chambers of commerce. Information from websites such as Trip Advisor was considered, along with brochures and websites for individual tourist-related attractions and businesses. We also reviewed letters submitted to the SEC from municipalities and chambers of commerce, discussed available data with the NH Division of Travel and Tourism, and talked with some individual businesses that operate near the route. The distance to each travel and tourism attraction was measured from the Project route, and potential temporary impacts associated with construction and visibility of the Project from visitor attractions, including scenic resources identified by LandWorks was considered.

The following is a summary of the travel and tourism attractions located in the vicinity of the SRP that are promoted by the state and regional chambers and "Top Things to Do" on Trip Advisor.

1. New Hampshire Official Visitors Guide 2016-2017. This magazine is published by the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development and distributed widely. It has a detailed list of visitor attractions, activities and accommodations by region, including the seacoast. This information also is available online at <https://www.visitnh.gov/>, which is the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development website.

A detailed review of the Guide indicates that while there are many attractions, activities and accommodations in the seacoast area, few are in the vicinity of the Project route. Those listed in the State's Guide which are in the vicinity of the Project route include the Paul Creative Arts Center at UNH, Portsmouth Harbor Cruises and Gundalow Company (which are based in downtown Portsmouth and sometimes operate in Great Bay), and Seacoast Helicopters, Redhook Brewery, and Residence Inn at Pease. The Guide also has text which mentions hockey games at the UNH Whittemore Center, hiking the Great Bay shoreline and boating on the Piscataqua River as recreational opportunities in the area.

2. The 2017-2018 Visitor and Relocation Guide – Greater Dover, New Hampshire. This Guide is produced and distributed by the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce.

Only a few visitor attractions in Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth are listed in the Visitor and Relocation Guide: Old Stage Campground in Madbury; UNH Museum of Art and UNH Theatre and Dance at the Paul Creative Arts Center and Three Chimneys Inn/fFrost Sawyer Tavern in Durham, Fox Run Mall in Newington; and the Gundalow Company and Portsmouth Harbor Cruises in Portsmouth. None of these sites or attractions is along the Project corridor, except when Gundalow Company and Portsmouth Harbor Cruises operate where the Project will be constructed under Little Bay.

3. Harbor Guide – the Official Guide to the Seacoast and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. This Guide is prepared and distributed to visitors by the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth. The Harbor Guide includes sections about: fun things to see and do; top spots to dine; best places to shop; hotels, inns and B & B's; and essentials (transportation, fitness classes, parking, Wi-Fi).

The Harbor Guide includes information about Portsmouth Harbor Cruises, Gundalow Company and Port City Bike Tours and briefly mentions Seven Rivers Paddling, Great Bay Marine, Great Bay Yacht Club, and kayaking the inlets of Great Bay as recreational opportunities in the area. Eating establishments include Redhook Brewery and Stoneface Brewing, Paddy's Grille, Grille 28 at the Pease Golf Course and Newick's Restaurant in Dover. Three Chimneys Inn in Durham and Residence Inn at Pease were listed in the lodging section. As noted previously, boat tours and recreational boating may occur on Little Bay. The Fox Run Mall area also is identified in the Guide.

4. Pro Portsmouth. Pro Portsmouth organizes a number of successful events that are enjoyed by area residents and visitors. Popular events include Market Square Day and 10K Road Race, First Night Portsmouth, Children's Day and Summer in the Street. These events are not near the Project corridor. The Fox Run Mall parking lot is used for off-site parking on Market Square Day, but the Project will not affect this site.

Pro Portsmouth also promotes the Seacoast Road Race Series. Two of the eight races intersect the Project corridor: Fox Point Sunset 5 Mile Road Race in Newington and the Runner's Alley/Redhook Memorial 5k, based at Redhook, south of the Project.

5. Trip Advisor. This website is the world's largest travel website, covering accommodations, airlines, experiences and restaurants with consumer reviews and rankings. Its site identifies and rates the "Top Ten Things to Do" by location. In Madbury it lists Old Stage Campground, which is not near the Project corridor. The Paul Creative Arts Center, the UNH Observatory, Adams Point, Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Redhook and Stoneface breweries, Fox Run Mall and The Crossings were listed as "Top Ten Things to Do" in Durham, Newington and/or Portsmouth.

We also considered municipal views on visitor attractions, which were provided by the towns of Newington and Durham in response to data requests from the Applicant at the SRP technical sessions held on May 16, 2018.

Town of Newington

The town provided the following list of tourism-based businesses and destinations that the Town believes will be affected by construction and/or operation of the Project.

1. Tourist Attractions/Tourism in Newington: Historic Sites; Wildlife Refuge; Great Bay Marine; Striper Fishing on Bay; Boating; Water Sports.
2. Historic Destinations: Old Parsonage Tours; National Forest Tours; Darius Frink Farm; Adams Homestead (NH State Register of Historic Places); Newington Center Historic District; Bloody Point Historic District.
3. Tourism-Based Businesses: Portsmouth Boating Company; Kayak Rental; Paddle Board Rentals; Crossings Mall; Lexi's Landing Restaurant at Great Bay Marine; Fox Run Mall; Longhorn Steakhouse; McDonald's; Petsmart; Airport Services; Red Helicopter Tours; Bay and River Tours; Gundalow River Tours; Thomas Leighton Tours; Heritage Bay Tours; Striper Fishing Guides; Oyster Farms.

The Applicant also asked the Town to identify any road races or other public events that may be impacted during construction and operation of the Project. The Town's response included a list of 2018 events that have been approved by the Board of Selectmen through late May or early June. The list included three road races (April 22, July 22, and September 7). September Fest at Fox Point (September 15), five church suppers at the town hall, a talent show at Town Hall and an Egg Hunt at the Old Town Hall and some weddings, baby showers, anniversaries, and receptions at Old Town Hall, Town Hall, or Fox Point. Most events are held on weekends. All of these attractions, historic sites and tourism-based businesses have been considered as part of our analysis.

Town of Durham

The town estimated that 84 of 194 businesses in Durham are impacted by tourism but did not produce information about the businesses or how this number was derived. The town also listed several conservation areas that may be used by visitors. The list included Doe Farm conservation area, Wagon Hill, Oyster River Forest, Longmarsh Preserve, Father Lawless Fields (Woodridge Subdivision), Jackson's Landing, Hamilton Smith Chapel, Stolworthy Wildlife Sanctuary, Mill Pond Park and Dam, Spruce Hole Conservation Area, the Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Facility, Town Landing and General Sullivan Bridge, Weeks Lot, Wiswall Dam and John Hatch Park, College Woods, with connecting trails at West and East Foss Farm and Thompson Farm, Adam's Point, and Sweet Trail.

No specific tourism-oriented businesses, sites or activities, other than the use of conservation areas by residents and visitors, were identified by the Town in its response. However, in on page 5 in pre-filed testimony dated July 28, Town Administrator Todd Selig stated that Great Bay attracts tourists to the local economy.

All of the conservation areas and trails listed above, as well as the Great Bay estuary, were considered in the preparation of this report. We also considered tourist-oriented businesses, sites and attractions within the Town of Durham as part of our analysis.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO TOURISM AND REGIONAL RECREATION

The following section describes potential impacts to visitor attractions and regional recreational opportunities in the vicinity of the Project route that are promoted/listed by the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development, regional groups, and Trip Advisor. We also expanded the assessment to include additional visitor attractions suggested by the towns of Durham and Newington, as well as sites promoted by other state agencies such as NH Fish and Game, NH Coastal Program, and the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods. This assessment indicates that the Project will not have an adverse effect on tourism or regional recreation, and that while construction of the Project may have some temporary, short-term and localized impacts, these can be avoided and minimized with good communication and coordination with appropriate federal and state agencies, municipalities, UNH, Pease Development Authority, businesses and organizations.

University of New Hampshire, Durham

UNH attracts many visitors to Durham and the surrounding seacoast area. Visitors include prospective, current and former students and their friends and families, as well as others who are drawn to its facilities for sporting events, theatre, arts, lectures, meetings, and reunions. These visitors help support the local and regional economy, spending money at local restaurants, lodging facilities, retail shops, and athletic and performing arts events.

The Whittemore Center, and other athletic facilities, Dairy Bar, and Paul Creative Arts Center have been listed in some guides as visitor attractions. The Whittemore Center is a 6,500-seat hockey arena on the UNH campus that opened in 1995. Although its primary use is for hockey, the facility is occasionally used for special events such as ceremonies, concerts, and trade shows. Memorial Field is located in front of the Whittemore Center just east of the UNH Dairy Bar/Amtrak Station. Other nearby athletic facilities with sporting events include the UNH Field House, Wildcat Stadium and the new soccer/lacrosse field, which are located south of Main Street. Visitors to the Whittemore Center and the other athletic facilities can arrive by foot, bicycle, bus, car, or rail. Parking is available in nearby locations such as the Edgewood Visitor Lot, Alumni Center Lot, Woodside Lot, Town Depot Lot, M-Lot and A-Lot, a multi-use paved parking lot on the west side of the railroad tracks which is used by faculty/staff and commuters during the school day and by visitors to sporting and other special events at the Whittemore Center and nearby athletic facilities during the evening (after 6pm) and on weekends. UNH also provides parking west of Wildcat Stadium during football games.

The Project will be placed underground for a distance of 2,100 feet as it passes through this area. Underground construction will be subject to the Memorandum of Understanding with UNH to ensure that the Project avoids and minimizes potential impacts on the university as a whole. Underground construction in A-Lot will occur during the summer months when most of the students are on summer break, parking demand is lighter and when most construction activity on the UNH campus occurs. Although several spaces will not be available for summer parking, there is ample unused capacity in A-Lot to meet the demand. The Project will not affect the number of visitors who attend athletic events or other events at the Whittemore Center, Fieldhouse or Wildcat Stadium, and will not affect the number of patrons or travelers at the Dairy Bar/Amtrak Station.

The Paul Creative Arts Center (PCAC), located at 30 Academic Way on the UNH campus, hosts theatre, dance and music events. It includes the 688-seat Johnson Theatre, the 150-seat Hennessy Theatre, and a 4,500 square-foot art museum. The PCAC website indicates that parking is available in the downtown area in C-Lot on Mill Road across from the shopping center, and at the UNH Visitors Center (with bus service). Academic Way, which is accessed from Mill Road and is not a through street, also has a limited number of metered spaces along the street near the PCAC. The PCAC is east of the railroad tracks and existing power line, and is about .21 miles east of the Project corridor. The Project will not have any effect on the number of visitors to the PCAC.

The UNH Observatory is a small facility located on Spinney Lane. It is west of the Gables and is not near the Project corridor.

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge (GBNWR), 4 Arboretum Drive, Newington, NH, is east of the Pease International Tradeport. The western side of the property is located along Great and Little Bay. It has a two-mile trail, called the William Furber Ferry Way Trail, with a segment that is near Great and Little Bay.

The SRP will not have an impact on the Refuge. The Project will be under Little Bay, and underground as it approaches landfall north of the refuge. A portion of the Ferry Way trail within the refuge follows along the shoreline, with vegetation between the trail and the water's edge. The trail has one location (an observation platform) where there is a view of Little Bay and the Jackson Lab. The visual expert, David Raphael, visited this site and concluded that "The view of the Project from those nearby portions of Great Bay, and the National Wildlife Refuge, is qualified by the fact that the structures will barely be visible above the tree line and will not be prominent, or draw the eye. The intactness of the landscape and shoreline will not be compromised by the presence of the Project."

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR)

Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is part of a national network of protected areas and promotes long-term research, education, and stewardship throughout the Great Bay estuary. This program was created under the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act as a partnership between NOAA and our nation's coastal states. The GBNERR was designated in 1989 and is managed by NH Fish and Game, with guidance and support of the Great Bay Stewards, a non-profit volunteer group.

The Reserve begins at the General Sullivan Bridge at Dover Point, seven miles from the mouth of the Piscataqua River and Gulf of Maine. It covers 10,235 acres, of which 7,300 acres is comprised of open water and wetlands. The Reserve boundary includes all of Great Bay and Little Bay as well as the tidal portions of the Bellamy, Oyster, Lamprey, Squamscott and Winnicut Rivers.

The Great Bay Discovery Center, located on the shore of Great Bay at the end of Depot Road in Greenland, is approximately 3.5 miles from the Project corridor. The education headquarters of the GBNERR is open Wednesday through Sunday, May through October (weekends only in

October and closed November – April). The SRP Project is not visible from the Discovery Center property.

The Center includes two buildings: the original Discovery Center, constructed in 1993, with interpretive exhibits; and the Hugh Gregg Conservation Center, a large post-and-beam barn constructed in 2005, which hosts meetings and workshops on the upper level and a special collections room/exhibit area on the lower level. The property also includes trails, a boardwalk, landscaped gardens, parking lot and a carry-in boat launch site.

The Great Bay Discovery Center offers some kayaking instruction and tours at its canoe/kayak/paddleboard launch site in Greenland. It reported 85 participants during the 2016 summer season, including a teacher trip out on the estuary, sunset birding trips, a Great Bay history trip, a volunteer appreciation trip and a kayak angling trip. Participants spend about 1.5 to 2 hours out on the water. The Project will not affect these programs as it is a considerable distance away, there is a vast shoreline of Great Bay and its tributaries near the Discovery Center, which is well south of the cable crossing location and construction will be limited to a few days in the fall. Areas north of the Project route are easily accessible from other sites.

New Hampshire State Park Properties

New Hampshire has 93 state park properties, including state beaches, campgrounds, historic sites, waysides, natural areas and trails that are listed on the NH Division of Parks and Recreation website and promoted by state and regional tourism organizations. Properties in the seacoast region include Hampton Beach State Park (Hampton), North Beach (Hampton), North Beach State Park (North Hampton), Jenness State Beach (Rye), Wallis Sands State Beach (Rye), Rye Harbor State Park (Rye), Ordiorne Point State Park (Rye), Fort Constitution State Historic Site (New Castle/USCG Station), Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion State Historic Site (Portsmouth) and White Island State Historic Site (Isle of Shoals). None of these properties is near the Project corridor, and none will be impacted by the SRP.

Public Boat and Land Access Sites

The NH Coastal Program (NHCP) and NH Fish and Game (NHF&G) publish information to promote boat and land access sites in the Great Bay area and along New Hampshire's coastline. The NHCP brochure describes five sites in Durham: Oyster River Landing, a small carry-in only launch with a dock and picnic area near the Three Chimneys Inn; Jackson's Landing, with a boathouse, picnic area, docks and boat launch for the UNH crew team, Durham Boat Club, and Great Bay Rowing Club, behind Churchhill Rink; Wagon Hill on Route 4, a natural area with trails, a picnic area and beach with a carry-in canoe/kayak put-in; Cedar Point Launch with very limited parking off Cedar Point Road, near the Route 4 Scammell Bridge at the Durham-Dover line; and Adams Point, which includes a natural area with a trail, the UNH Jackson Lab facility and a small public boat launch site with limited parking and boat access at high tide and three hours either side of high tide.

Although not associated with tourism and regional recreation, some boats for UNH research are docked on a temporary or full-time basis at the Jackson Lab. According to UNH, the facility includes a pier with a 2,000-pound crane and a floating dock with slip spaces for four or five outboard boats ranging from 12 feet to 22 feet in length. Larger, and other boats, are based at

the Judd Gregg Marine Science Complex in New Castle. The Gundalow Company based in Portsmouth sometimes uses the Jackson Lab pier for charters. With proper communication, installation of the cable crossing should not have an adverse effect on waterfront boat activity and the use of these sites in Durham.

Sites listed in Newington include privately-owned Great Bay Marine on Beane Lane; the Bloody Point shoreline at the end of Bloody Point Road on the Piscataqua River; and the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, a natural area with trails off Arboretum Drive at the Pease International Tradeport. NHF&G also lists the town's property on Fox Point which has a boat ramp, dock and picnic areas, and is limited to local residents.

Great Bay Marine, located on Beane Lane in Newington near the Little Bay/Spaulding Turnpike Bridge that crosses the Piscataqua River, is about 2.9 miles (by boat) from the Little Bay Project crossing. It has 128 slips, 69 moorings and trailered boats in the parking lot can accommodate boats up to 70 feet in length and has four moorings on the other side of the bridge for sailboats with especially tall masts. Vehicle access is available to the launch ramps (open for an annual or daily fee from May 1 to October 31) and to Lexie's Landing Restaurant. Other area boat facilities include Little Bay Boat Club, a marina on Dover Point Road which is next to Newicks Restaurant, George's Marina on the Cocheco River in downtown Dover, Bay View Boat Club in Elliot, Kittery Point Yacht Yard, Island Marine Services in Kittery, Kittery Landing Marina, Badgers Island Marina, Harbour Place, Witch Cove, Wentworth Marina, Esther's Marina and Portsmouth Yacht Club. None of these facilities has visibility of the Project. Although many boaters enjoy Great Bay, they can easily avoid the cable crossing area during construction by enjoying the northern part of Little Bay, the Piscataqua River, Cocheco River and other tributaries as well as Portsmouth Harbor and the Atlantic coastline.

As mentioned above, the Great Bay Discovery Center is located on the shore of Great Bay at the end of Depot Road in Greenland in the southwestern part of Great Bay near the Squamscott River. The educational facility includes interpretive exhibits, meeting space, trails, boardwalk and a boat/kayak launch (carry-in only, high tide access only, with 2,000 feet of mud at low tide). The SRP will not affect these facilities.

In Dover, sites listed by the state include the Dover Boat Launch (for canoes and row boats), privately-owned George's Marina, and Henry Law Park, all on the Cocheco River near downtown Dover; Salmon Falls Boat Launch on the Maine side of the river (high tide access only); Hilton Park at Dover Point (also used by the Great Bay Yacht Club); and three natural areas on the Bellamy River: the Bellamy River Access at Dover Point off Spur Road; Bellamy River Wildlife Management Area off Garrison Road; and the Bellamy River Wildlife Area off Bay View Road. The Project will not affect the use of these sites and facilities.

Sites along the Squamscott/Exeter River listed by the agencies include Chapman's Landing off Route 108 in Stratham (high tide access only); the Newfields Town Landing on River Road in Newfields (parking for town residents only); Stratham Town Landing on River Road in Stratham (limited parking, carry-in only, high tide access only); Exeter Town Landing off Water Street in downtown Exeter; and Swasey Parkway, a riverfront park in Exeter. The NHCP brochure also includes Newmarket Town Landing on Water Street and Heron Point natural area on Heron Point Road which are located in downtown Newmarket and the Lamprey River.

Lubberland Creek Preserve, off Bay Road in Newmarket, is a natural area with trails. The Project will not affect the use of these facilities.

The Project team will coordinate with NH Fish & Game, NH Coastal Program, marinas, and others to ensure that the public is aware of the Project and can easily avoid the crossing area, if necessary, on days of construction.

Boating

There are a few kayak tour companies that operate in the Portsmouth and Great Bay area. The best known are Seven Rivers Paddling and Portsmouth Kayaking Adventures. Seven Rivers Paddling offers kayaking opportunities on the ocean, tidal rivers and Great and Little Bay as well as special kayaking programs on a few lakes. Tours highlighted on its website include the Lamprey River round-trip tour from Schanda Park in downtown Newmarket, the Oyster River tour from Jackson's Landing in Durham, the Cocheco and Salmon Falls Rivers tours from George's Marina in downtown Dover (Cocheco) or South Berwick, Maine (Salmon Falls to Piscataqua) and the Portsmouth Harbor and NH Coastline tours (Portsmouth or Rye). These tours are typically three hours. The company also advertises 2-hour Sunset Tours at 6 pm from Rye, Newmarket (Lamprey) or Adams Point, trips to the Isle of Shoals (day-long trips and weekend trips) and week-long kayaking camps (ages 6-9) and paddleboard camps (ages 10-14). According to the company's website, potential week-long "paddle camp" locations include Jackson's Landing on the Oyster River, Wagon Hill on Little Bay and the Oyster River, and the Adams Point boat launch in Durham; Schanda Conservation Park on the Lamprey River in Newmarket; and the Ordiorne Point State Park boat launch in Rye. Activities, instruction and education are on land and on the water. The camps are offered mornings (8am-12pm), afternoons (12:30-4:30pm) and full-days (9am-4pm).

For the summer of 2018, the company advertises camps at Goat Island during the weeks of June 25-29, July 9-13 and July 30 – August 3. The Jackson's Landing camp is advertised for July 2-6 and August 6-10, and the Wagon Hill camp is offered July 23-27, August 20-24 and August 27-31. The Adams Point camp is offered during one week only: July 16-20. Seven Rivers Paddling also offers single-day, 6-hour training classes for all ages at Rye Harbor (May 13, June 10, July 8, July 9, August 12 and September 9) and Adams Point (May 6, June 3, June 24, August 19 and September 2). Construction associated with the cable crossing will not interfere with these summer camps.

The owner of Seven Rivers Paddling has expressed concern, in a letter to the SEC, about sediments associated with construction. This issue has been addressed in the NHDES permit. In addition, the Project team will meet with the owner to discuss the SRP construction schedule to ensure that the crossing corridor can be avoided by paddlers during construction, if necessary.

Portsmouth Kayak Adventures, based at 185 Wentworth Road (on Route 1B, near BG's restaurant), on Sagamore Creek in Portsmouth, offers 2-3 hour tours, rentals, instruction and kids camps. Tours include the New Castle Tour (10 am and 2 pm) in the Little Harbor area of Portsmouth and New Castle, the Sunset Tour along Little Harbor's tidal creeks and marshes, the full Moon Tour in the Little Harbor Basin, the Portsmouth Harbor Tour (Friday), the Portsmouth Fireworks Tour on July 3rd, Yoga on the Beach Tour, Ladies Night Tour (Wednesdays) and the Great Bay Eco Tour (upon request). The kid's camps are offered half-

days in Portsmouth for children ages 6-9 and 10-14. The Project team will notify the owners of this company and discuss the Project construction schedule on Little Bay.

Portsmouth Harbor Cruises, based on Ceres Street in downtown Portsmouth, is a popular boat tour company that provides narrated public and charter tours aboard the 49-passenger MV Heritage, a 60-foot vessel. The Harbor Cruise, Evening Cruise and Sunset/Wine and Light Cruises follow circular routes out into Portsmouth Harbor and around New Castle island. The Isle of Shoals Cruise is a round trip to the Isle of Shoals. The Inland River Cruises heads up the Piscataqua River to either the Cocheco River in Dover (Cocheco Cruise) or to Little and Great Bay (Great Bay Cruise). Some private charters also may follow these routes. The company notes on its website that the Inland River Cruises on the Cocheco River or Little/Great Bay are the seacoast's most popular fall foliage cruises.

Cruises operate in the late spring, summer and fall. In the spring, only Harbor Cruises are scheduled, leaving the dock at noon and 3 pm on weekends only, from May 13 to June 9. In 2017 the summer schedule (June 10 to September 10), included Harbor Cruises at 10 am, and 3 pm, Evening Cruises at 5:45 pm and Sunset Cruises at 7 pm, and all of which were 7 days per week. In addition, Harbor Cruises were scheduled at noon on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, and at 1:30 and 4:30 Saturday and Sunday. Isle of Shoals trips leave shore at noon, Tuesday through Friday.

Fall tours (September 11 to October 29) include the Harbor Cruise at 10 am, weekends only, and at 3 pm, 7 days per week. The Inland Rivers Cruise held during the fall season leave the dock in Portsmouth at 12 noon. The MV Heritage also is available for private charters which can be arranged for any of the cruise tour routes described above, depending on the tides.

Coordination between this company and the Project team will ensure that any potential short-term construction impacts can be avoided. For example, in September 2017, Portsmouth Harbor Cruises announced on its website that the Harbor Cruise would replace the Inland Rivers Cruise October 17-26 due to the closure of the Piscataqua River at the Sarah Long Bridge construction site. The river previously was closed September 20-29 and portions of March 27 and March 30, 2017 due to demolition/construction. All Piscataqua River closures for construction were directed by the U.S. Coast Guard through the issuance of Marine Safety Information Bulletins and the establishment of a Regulated Navigation Area (RNA).

Gundalow Company, based at the Prescott Park dock in downtown Portsmouth, is a non-profit organization that owns and operates the full-scale replica gundalow Piscataqua, which was constructed at Strawberry Banke in 2011 after a five-year fundraising effort. The up to 46-passenger Piscataqua provides sailing excursions and dockside programs up and down the Piscataqua River and around Great Bay. Public sails and private charters are scheduled Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day or late October. The company also provides summer camp programs for children during July and August.

The Gundalow sails seven days a week. During the daytime, offerings include: (1) the History Sail (mid-day, 1.5 hours on the Piscataqua River); Discovery Sail (afternoons, 2 hours); and the Up-River Sail (afternoons, 3 hours, from the River House Restaurant dock past the towns of Kittery, Newington and Eliot). Evening sails include the Sunset Sail (2 hours on the Piscataqua

River); Concert Cruise (Thursday and Sunday evenings); and the Tuesday Speaker Series (2 hours).

The Gundalow Company also offers trips on Great Bay from Adams Point (Jackson Lab dock) south of the crossing location in Durham, and on the Cochecho River to/from Dover and other locations north of the crossing location. The company's website notes that while Great Bay is often too shallow for traditional sailboats, it is perfect for flat-bottomed gundalows. A 9-mile trip on the Gundalow from Prescott Park in Portsmouth to Adams Point in Durham would take about 1.5 hours. Along the way it passes downtown Portsmouth, salt piles, NH Port Authority operations, energy facilities such as Shiller Station, Newington Station, and Sprague Energy terminals, and several bridges. Due to the time and expense of traveling from Portsmouth to Adams Point, tours of Great Bay typically depart from and return to the Jackson Lab. The Project team will coordinate with The Gundalow Company on its construction schedule so that impacts to its operations can be avoided, if necessary.

Rowing Clubs

There are several rowing clubs in the Great Bay area. The UNH Rowing, founded in 1973, is a club sport at the University for both men and women. The team operates out of the boathouse at Jackson's Landing, which is on the Oyster River behind Churchill Rink and near the intersection of Route 108 and Route 4 in Durham. The boathouse site includes docks, a boat launch and parking limited to boats with trailers. The UNH Rowing Club practices on the Oyster River in Durham, at Mendum's Pond (smaller boats) in Barrington and on the Cochecho River in Dover. The club typically hosts only one or two "home" races each season, and most races are out-of-state. The home races are held on the Oyster River from the start near Jackson's Landing to the finish line, which is about a mile down river to the east, near the bridge on Route 4 (just before Morgan Way and well before reaching Wagon Hill Farm). Use of the Oyster River is somewhat of a challenge due to shallow water during low tides and natural siltation which requires periodic dredging by the Town of Durham at the Jackson's Landing launch and docks.

Great Bay Rowing Club (GBR), founded in 1997, is a non-profit, community rowing club that operates out of the Jackson's Landing boathouse in Durham and a boathouse in Dover, sharing the facilities with the UNH Rowing Club. Adult and junior programs are offered year-round in both locations except for winter training which is held at the Dover boathouse.

The Durham Boat Club and Durham Boat Company is located on Route 108 in Durham, about 1.5 miles south of the Project corridor. The club appears to have about 10-20 members and offers instruction and training programs. Recreational programs are held on the Lamprey, which in this area is freshwater and not affected by the tides. Programs for serious competitive scullers are offered on the Oyster River at Jackson's Landing.

Phillips Exeter Academy's crew team operates from the Saltonstall Boathouse which is located on the Squamscott/Exeter River at the corner of Swazey Parkway and Water Street, a short distance from the school's campus and downtown Exeter. The team practices along the Squamscott River. The school notes that the river, which extends about 6 miles from Exeter to Great Bay, enjoys a lack of commercial or recreational motorboat traffic, which prevents undesirable interruptions while its rowers are out on the water.

Berwick Academy established a crew program about five years ago and hosted its inaugural home race on the Salmon Falls River in May of 2017, covering a distance of 1,500 meters (0.93 miles). The team operates from Hamilton House, an historic property on the river in South Berwick, Maine.

The Project will not affect any of these rowing clubs. However, the Project team will notify each club about the construction schedule for the Little Bay crossing so that the corridor can be avoided, if necessary.

Fishing

The NH Fish and Game Department promotes fishing opportunities in each region of the state with brochures entitled "Take Me Fishing," a shoreline fishing guide. The guide lists several locations for trout and warm water species fishing in southeastern NH rivers, including sites on the Isinglass River in Barrington/Rochester, the Cocheco River above downtown Dover, the Lamprey River downstream of the Wiswall Dam and below Packers Falls in Durham, and lake/pond sites on Pawtuckaway Lake in Nottingham Lucas Pond in Northwood, Barbadoes Pond Madbury/Dover and the Exeter Reservoir in Exeter.

NH Fish and Game's seacoast guide promotes striped bass fishing primarily, and to a lesser extent, bluefish, white flounder or mackerel. Sites listed along the coast include Seabrook/Hampton Beaches in Hampton and Seabrook, Blackwater River at Route 286 in Seabrook, North Hampton State Beach, Rye Harbor State Park and Great Island Common in New Castle. Highlighted sites on the Piscataqua River include the Goat's Island Bridge between New Castle and downtown Portsmouth, Bloody Point on the east side of the Spaulding Turnpike bridge in Newington and Hilton Park at Dover Point.

Sites promoted by NH Fish and Game in the Great Bay estuary and its tributaries include Scammell Bridge in Dover, where the agency notes that bluefish are occasionally present among schools of striped bass, and fishing is best at night, the Henry Law Park on the Cocheco River in downtown Dover, and the Newmarket Town Landing/Heron Point on the Lamprey River in downtown Newmarket.

There are about 20 licensed charter and party boats listed on the NH Fish and Game website. All are located in communities along the Atlantic Ocean, including Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, Hampton and Seabrook, NH and Newburyport, MA.

The SRP will not affect the ability of fishermen to access sites promoted in the NHF&G guide and efforts will be made to reach out to NHF&G and the fishing community prior to construction.

Shellfishing

Shellfishing is a recreational activity for some New Hampshire residents. Out-of-state visitors are prohibited from harvesting shellfish in New Hampshire waters. In-state residents need to purchase licenses for softshell clams and oysters, but do not need licenses for other species. According to NH DES and NHF&G, the major softshell clam beds (steamers) are located in Hampton-Seabrook Harbor, with scattered beds in the Great Bay estuary. Most oyster beds, as well as scattered populations of razor clams, are found in Great Bay. Blue mussels generally can

be found in Hampton Harbor and in rocky areas along the coast. In Great Bay, shellfish beds at Adams Point and the Scammell Bridge are accessible by foot and the Nannie Island area requires boat access (a 5-acre area near Nannie Island is closed for oyster restoration for a 5-year period, until 2021). Water and shellfish tissue bacteria samples are collected and analyzed each week, and decisions are announced near the end of each week, when open/closed designations of shellfish harvest areas are announced and depicted on maps.

According to maps and information on the NH Coastal Atlas in May 2018, harvesting was closed or limited to “Saturdays only” in designated areas of the Bellamy River and Upper and Lower Little Bay for all shellfish. The area designated as Durham Point and Adams Point were open for softshell clams “Saturdays only” and open to other shellfish harvesting every day. The larger Great Bay area also was open Saturdays for softshell clams and every day for the others. The Little Bay/Dover Point area, and Oyster, Lamprey, Squamscott, Winnicut, Lower Piscataqua/Portsmouth Harbor and the Upper Piscataqua/Salmon Falls/Cocheco Rivers were closed for all shellfish. <http://www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/fishing/saltwater/shellfish/>

The existing cable crossing corridor across Little Bay is designated as a closed area by NH Fish and Game, while the area just south of the crossing on the Newington side, as well as the area north of the crossing in Little Bay and the area at the mouth of the Bellamy River near the bridge are limited to “Saturday only” shellfishing.

Open season for softshell clams in the Great Bay/Little Bay area is from the first Saturday after Labor Day to May 31, on Saturdays only. The open season for oysters is September to June. There is no closed season for blue mussels or razor clams, except for the Little Bay/Bellamy River open area. However, it should be noted that open shellfish areas may be closed temporarily at any time. Closures are usually associated with elevated bacteria levels or the presence of red tide. Samples are tested weekly from April to October, and if toxin levels exceed state standards, shellfish harvesting areas are closed and public notice is given via the news media and the NH Fish and Game and NH DES websites and automated notification systems.

Shellfish harvesters understand and are accustomed to the fact that open shellfish areas may close temporarily at any time. NH Fish and Game provides a “Clam Flat Hotline” call-in number which provides the latest information on closed and open shellfishing areas. It is updated weekly on Friday afternoons, although harvesters are urged to check back frequently for unscheduled updates. For those who are interested in Little Bay and the Bellamy River open areas, harvesters are urged to check the hotline after 9 am on Saturday for updates.

In addition, the NH DES provides shellfish maps and an interactive website, https://www4.des.state.nh.us/CoastalAtlas/Shellfish_Map.html. It provides text and email updates on the status of clam flats and other coastal areas, including red tide alerts, on mobile phones and personal computers. These methods of communication and notification to the shellfishing community can be used to announce the construction schedule for the cable crossing.

A number of oyster farms are located in Great Bay. They are described in the Agriculture (aquaculture) section of the Land Use Report. The NHDES, in its conditions of approval for the Project, recommended that the Project notify the NHDES Shellfish program two weeks prior to construction and provide testing and monitoring of shellfish and water quality prior to and

throughout construction of the Project. See [NHDES Final Decision, dated February 28, 2018](#), pages 13-15).

Trails

The Sweet Trail in Durham and Newmarket, and the Ferry Way and Peverly Pond trails at the GBNWR are regionally significant trails in the vicinity of the Project. The Sweet Trail extends from the gate at the west side of Longmarsh Road to Great Bay in Newmarket. It is not a loop trail. The trail does not intersect the existing electric line corridor and the SRP will not be visible for this trail. Parking at the Longmarsh Road trailhead is limited to 2 or 3 cars with slightly more off-road parking further south off Dame Road and in Newmarket. The Ferry Way Trail in Newington is south of the crossing of Little Bay. It has one location where Little Bay is visible, directly across from Jackson Lab, but does not allow access to Great or Little Bay. The Project will not affect the number of visitors who use these regional trails.

There are several local trails, such as the trails in East and West Foss Farm, as well as trails within conservation parcels such as Old Reservoir, College Woods, Kitfield Tract, and Longmaid (Longmarsh Road) and Wagon Hill, located within the town of Durham. A detailed description of local trails located in conservation land along the Project corridor is included in the Land Use and Planning Report.

Cycling and Running

The NH DOT bicycle route map lists most state roads and many local roads as bicycle routes in New Hampshire. Madbury Road, Route 4, Route 108, and Main Street in Durham; and Nimble Hill Road and Fox Point Road in Newington are identified as bicycle routes on the state's bicycle route map. Mill Road and Durham Point Road are shown as part of a bicycle loop on the map as well. The Project crosses these roadways within the existing electric utility right-of-way and is underground at Main Street in Durham and Nimble Hill Road in Newington.

Bicycle clubs include Granite State Wheelmen, the largest recreational bicycle club in New Hampshire, which organizes weekday, weekend, and multi-day rides for road and off-road bicyclists. The largest area event is the annual Seacoast Century Weekend (September 22-23), a scenic ride and fund-raiser (not a race) with about 1,300 riders following 25, 50, 63 and 100-mile coastal routes that start and end at Hampton Beach. Host communities include Hampton, North Hampton, New Castle, Rye, Portsmouth, Kittery, York and Eliot. Cycle the Seacoast (Sunday, May 6) is another popular bicycle race that starts and ends at the Redhook Brewery.

The Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (SABR) is a small volunteer bicycle club that promotes a safe and efficient bicycle transportation network in the seacoast region of New Hampshire and Maine, advocates for bike paths and connections and promotes group rides and some events, such as the Portsmouth Criterium in downtown Portsmouth. A few of the potential roadway routes on its website pass through the Pease Tradeport, Newington, Portsmouth, Dover and Durham.

Mountain bike trails promoted on the website include Stratham Hill Park in Stratham, Fort Rock in Exeter and Newfields, Mount Agemeticus in York, Pawtuckaway State Park and Bear Brook State Parks in NH, Willowdale in Ipswich, MA and trails in the Lake Massabesic

watershed. Some mountain bikers also use trails at the Kingman Farm and to a much lesser extent, the trails in West and East Foss Farm and College Woods.

Other mountain bike clubs and associations that list trails in the seacoast area include the New England Mountain Bike Association and the New Hampshire Cycling Club. Trails listed on the New England Mountain Bike Association website include those within Kingman Farm in Madbury. New Hampshire Cycling Club (www.nhcyclingclub.com) hosts a website. Gus's Bike Shop (GusBike.com) in North Hampton, a seacoast area town, lists area mountain bike trails at Stratham Hill Park in Stratham, Exeter Woods and Fort Rock in Exeter and Mount Agamenticus in Maine, and the Rye Town Forest in Rye. The Town of Durham website (<https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/recreation/outdoor-recreation-recommended-site-activities>) lists College Woods, East Foss Farm, Langmaid Farm, Thompson Farm, West Foss Farm, Longmarsh Road, Beech Hill Road, and Jenkins Road.

The University of New Hampshire Cycling Team is a club sport at UNH. The team competes in various mountain bike, road and criterium races hosted by colleges and other organizations in the northeast and in the national championships. They also help host rides in the area, such as alumni rides on UNH homecoming weekends.

NH has running clubs that help organize group runs, charity events and races in partnership with other municipalities, organizations and businesses. Among those in the area are the Coastal Athletic Association in Portsmouth, Six03, FIT4MOM Seacoast, and Team Sherpa Ultra-Running in Dover.

Races planned for 2018 are: (1) Great Bay Half Marathon and 5K races on Sunday April 6 in Newmarket; (2) The Great Bay 5K in Greenland, a fund-raiser for Great Bay Stewards, on Saturday October 27, starting at Stratham Hill Park and ending at the Discovery Center on Depot Road; the Fox Point Sunset 5 Mile Road Race on Saturday September 8 in Newington, which starts and finishes at the Old Town Hall, following portions of Arboretum Drive, Fox Point Road, Nimble Hill Road, Old Post Road and Little Bay Road; (3) the Runner's Alley/Red Hook 5K Memorial Day Race on Sunday May 27, which follows portions of Corporate Drive, International Drive and Rye Street, all within the Pease International Tradeport; (4) the Pease 7K Road Race for the NH Air National Guard on Sunday July 22, which starts and finishes at Newington's Library and follows portions of Arboretum Drive, Fox Point Road, and Little Bay Road in Newington; (5) the Portsmouth Half Marathon on Sunday April 22, which starts and finishes at the Lowes parking lot in Greenland and follows Portsmouth Avenue, Newington Road, Little Bay Road, the Newington Old Town Hill, and retraces the route back to the start, with an after-race party at Mercedes-Benz of Portsmouth in Greenland; (6) the Kingman Farm Trail Race on Saturday August 4, with a 3.8-mile course based at the Madbury Town Hall; and (7) the Untamed New England Expedition Race, a 250-mile non-stop, race that takes place over 3-4 days between Tuesday July 24 and Sunday July 29, with teams of 2-4 persons who hike, paddle, mountain bike and do orienteering across rugged terrain, and mountain summits. Typically only 20 percent of the teams finish the course. In 2018, the annual New England Race is being hosted at UNH in Durham, and is likely to be hosted elsewhere in New England in 2019.

Three of the races described above are along segments of local streets in Newington. They include the Portsmouth Half Marathon on Sunday April 22, The Pease 7K Road Race on Sunday July 22 and the Fox Point Sunset 5 Mile Road Race on Saturday September 8. The Project will not affect the number of visitors who attend or participate in area races. The Project team will coordinate with the town of Newington and race organizers to ensure that construction of the Project does not affect these weekend events.

Scenic Roads

The Project corridor intersects Route 108, a portion of which is designated by the state as the Mills Scenic Byway. SRP will be constructed within this existing powerline corridor and design changes have been made in consultation with NHDOT and the town to address concerns and reduce Project visibility. There are some crossings of town-designated scenic roads, including: Durham Point Road in Durham; and Nimble Hill Road, Gundalow Landing, Little Bay Road, Old Post Road, and Fox Point Road. The Project will be underground when it crosses Gundalow Landing, Little Bay Road, Old Post Road and Nimble Hill Road. Design changes have been made at the crossings of Durham Point Road and Fox Point Road to reduce visibility. The Project will not affect the number of visitors who travel these roads.

Golf Courses

There are several golf courses in the Great Bay area. They include Cochecho County Club (private), near downtown Dover; Rockingham Country Club on Route 108 in Newmarket; Golf Club of New England (private) on Winnicutt Road near Union Road in Stratham; Breakfast Hill Golf Club, on Breakfast Hill Road, east of I-95 in Greenland; Portsmouth Country Club (semi-private), which borders the southeast part of Great Bay near the Winnicut River in Greenland; and the Pease Golf Course on Grafton Road near I-95 and Rt. 33 at the Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth. The Pease Golf Course does not border Great Bay. The SRP is not near any of these courses and there is no visibility of the Project. The Project will not affect the number of visitors who golf at or attend these facilities.

Camping

The only campground within the four Project communities is the Old Stage Campground. It is located at 46 Old Stage Road in Madbury near the Madbury/Dover line, south of Route 9 and east of the Bellamy Reservoir, with some sites along the river. The campground is open May 4 – September 30. The Ferndale Acres Campground (May 13 – September 13) and Wellington Camping Park (May 15 – September 30) are located in Lee, and both have access to the Lamprey River, upstream of Durham. None of these campgrounds is near the Project corridor, and the SRP will not affect the number of visitors to these campgrounds.

Great Bay Camping (May 14 – September 30) is located about 4.5 miles north of Route 101, on Route 108 in Newfields, with an entrance behind the Shell Gas Station. The 90-site campground has about 600 feet of frontage on the tidal Squamscott River with a dock and boat launch, and claims to be the only private campground in the state with direct boat access to saltwater (and striped bass and bluefish fishing). Although this campground is far from the SRP corridor, it may have campers who use the boat ramp to boat or fish in Little or Great Bay. The Project team will reach out to this campground to notify them about the cable construction schedule.

Lodging, Restaurants, and Shopping

There are many lodging and restaurant establishments within the four Project communities, but only a few are located in the vicinity of the Project corridor.

There are no lodging facilities near the Project corridor in Madbury, Durham, or Newington. In Durham, lodging establishments include the Holiday Inn Express and Three Chimneys Inn, both of which are near the junction of Route 108 and Main Street. The Pines at Coe's Corner, a historic Victorian guest house at 47 Dover Road, is about one mile from the UNH campus. None is near the Project corridor.

While there are many lodging establishments in Portsmouth, only two are in the vicinity of the Project corridor. The Residence Inn Marriott, at One International Drive in Portsmouth in the Pease Tradeport, is south and west of the Gosling Road/Spaulding Turnpike exit. Motel 6 is located at 3 Gosling Road near the Turnpike (across the street from the Longhorn and McDonalds restaurants). The SRP will not cause any of these lodging facilities to lose tourism-related business, and some may see additional revenues with overnight stays by Project workers.

There is only one restaurant near the Project corridor between the Madbury substation and the Crossings mall area, a distance of about 12 miles. The UNH Dairy Bar is located near the Whittemore Center and Main Street on the east side of the railroad tracks in Durham. The Project will be underground in this area. Longhorn Steakhouse, McDonalds, IHop, and the former Bugaboo Creek restaurant are located near The Crossings mall complex in Newington. The Project may increase revenues for these restaurants during construction.

There are no retail shops near the Project corridor between the Madbury substation and The Crossings mall area, a distance of about 12 miles. The Crossings is the only shopping area along the Project route that is promoted by travel and tourism groups. It is an open-air 475,000 square foot shopping mall with national big-box merchants and restaurants and cinema, all with ample, free parking. Stores and restaurants include Kohl's, Dicks Sporting Goods, Trader Joe's, Ulta, Five Below, Chipotle, Old Navy, Best Buy, Barnes and Noble, the former Bugaboo Creek and IHOP to the north and Longhorn, McDonald's, Jared's, Toys R Us, and Cumberland Farms to the south. Existing transmission structures, power plants and parking lots are visible from these businesses and from entrances to this mall. After crossing Woodbury Road, the Project continues to run parallel to Gosling Road and behind businesses such as Batteries Plus Bulbs, We Fix It iPhone Repair, Sprint, Mattress Firm Newington, Stairway to Heaven Comics, Children's Orchard used clothing, and indoor athletic training facilities, before entering the Portsmouth Substation grounds. The Project will not have a significant effect on this shopping area which has ample visitor parking, multiple points of access and existing transmission lines. The character of this area will not change due to this Project.

Historic Sites and Museums

The seacoast area has a number of historic buildings and museums that are advertised and promoted to visitors by state and regional groups. Most are located in the downtown Portsmouth area (USS Albacore Museum, Strawberry Banke Museum, The Music Hall, Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden, etc.), in the downtown Dover area (Children's Museum, Woodman Museum) and along the coast.

In Durham, the UNH Museum is located in the Dimond Library near Thompson Hall; it is open from noon to 4pm Monday through Friday, with extended hours on Wednesdays during regular semester hours. The Museum of Art is located within the Paul Creative Arts Center. The museum's hours vary, and are closed during the summer. The Durham Historical Association museum is located at the junction of Route 108 and Main Street. It is generally open by appointment only, although in recent years it has been open for a few hours on Saturdays during the summer. It is not promoted as a visitor attraction by state or regional tourism groups.

The Newington Center Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, with an additional 69 acres of former town forest added in 1991. The District is located along a section of Nimble Hill Road between its intersection with Little Bay Road and a gate at the southern end of the road (Pease International Tradeport). The District includes several historic buildings, including the Frink Farm. The Project will be underground as it crosses the Frink Farm and Nimble Hill Road, and will not interfere with the use of any historic buildings that may be used for meetings or events. None of these buildings, or the district as a whole, was listed in state or regional tourism publications.

In response to a data request, the Newington Planning Board Chairman listed several historic buildings that he felt could be considered tourist attractions: Old Parsonage Tours; National Forest Tours; Darius Frink Farm; Adams Homestead (NH State Register of Historic Places); Newington Center Historic District; Bloody Point Historic District. The Project will not affect the limited number of visitors to these sites.

Aviation

Some visitors to the seacoast area may use the Portsmouth International Airport (PSM) at Pease, which has a small passenger terminal and facilities to serve commercial passengers, private jets, and air cargo. Allegiant Airlines currently offers a limited number of low cost flights to and from Florida. The Air National Guard also operates at Pease.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has conducted a review of the Project and has determined that the Project will not affect aviation operations at Pease, and no lights will be necessary on Project structures. The Project will not affect the number of visitors who use this airport.

Seacoast Helicopters, at 44 Durham Street in Portsmouth, is located at the south end of Pease International Tradeport towards the Pease Golf Course. The company provides flight school, survey and taxi services, as well as scenic tours. Advertised tours include the 15-minute Portsmouth Tour; the 30-minute Beach Tour including Wentworth By the Sea, Hampton and Rye; the 45-minute Lighthouse Tour including four lighthouses and historical sites; and the Isle of Shoals Tour which expands upon the Lighthouse Tour by flying over the Isle of Shoals area. The Project will not interfere with these tours and operations, and will not affect the number of visitors who go on these flights.

Agriculture

Agriculture has grown as a segment of the tourism and recreation industry as farms have diversified to generate additional revenue. The following section describes agricultural sites, facilities and events that are promoted by the state and other organizations.

Farmers Markets-Two of the four Project communities have farmers markets that are sponsored by the Seacoast Growers Associations and included on the list of farmers markets published by the NH Department of Agriculture. The Durham Farmers Market, open 2:15 – 6 pm on Mondays from June 4 to September 1, is held in the Churchill Rink parking lot. The Portsmouth Farmers Market, open 8 – 1 Saturdays from May 5 to November 3, is held in the City Hall parking lot at One Jenkins Court. It has 64 vendor spaces. They are not near, and will not be affected by, the Project.

NH Agricultural Map-The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods publishes a NH Agricultural Map which is available at state rest areas, visitor centers, and many other locations. The map lists 27 farms in the Seacoast area including two farms in Madbury (Old Orchard Farm and Osprey Cover Organic Farm), and four in Durham (Great Bay Wool Works at Liberty Hall Farm, UNH Organic Garden, UNH Experiment Research Station and the UNH Organic Dairy Research Farm. No farms in Newington or Portsmouth are listed or displayed on the Map. Although not listed in the guide, Emery Farm in Durham has a store that sells their own and other local vegetables and agriculture-related products. They also offer seasonal pick-your-own fruits and vegetables. The Project is not visible from any of these farms.

The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods and various associations also promote the state's maple syrup producers, dairy products, gardens and agricultural fairs with brochures, media publicity and websites. The following events and farms were identified in the Project area:

- Fairs-The Stratham Fair, held in July, and the Rochester Fair, held in September, are not in Project towns. Ice Cream Trail-The "Ice Cream Trail" brochure and map lists 47 sites, one of which, the UNH Dairy Bar, is in the Project area. The Project is underground and on the other side of the railroad line, as it passes the Dairy Bar.
- Maple Products-Maple producers in Project area communities include Madbury Maples and Old Orchard Farm, both on Nute Road in Madbury, Maple Meadow/LaRoche Farm at 41 Bennett Road in Durham, and Syrup by the Sea at 372 Long Road in Portsmouth. The Project is not visible from these locations.
- Livestock Directory-The NH Livestock Directory includes Old Orchard Farm in Madbury and two in the neighboring town of Lee – Hickory Nut Farm and Coppal House Farm. Hickory Nut Farm, which raises goats and makes goat milk products, also is listed under "NH Cheesemakers." The Project is not near these sites.
- Gardens-The state's Gardens brochure includes Osprey Cove Organic Farm in Madbury and Bedrock Gardens on High Road in Lee. The UNH Organic Garden on Spinney Lane has about one acre of vegetables and raspberries. It is cultivated by the UNH Organic Garden Club. The Project is not visible from these gardens.

- Farms of Distinction-The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods has been issuing “Farms of Distinction” awards since 1997. Two farms in Durham have received awards: Emery Farm in 2004 and Linden Woods Farm in 2017. No farms in Madbury, Newington or Portsmouth have received this recognition. Emery Farm is located on Route 4 east of downtown Durham and across from Wagon Hill. It includes a retail store and café with bakery, fruits, vegetables, flowers and crafts, a petting arm, corn maze, pumpkins and pick-your-own blueberries. The farm also offers birthday parties and field trips during the summer and fall. Linden Woods Farm, 1.3 miles southeast of the Project at 135 Packers Falls Road in Durham, provides horse boarding, lessons, training and coaching and summer day camp programs in July and August. It has an 18-stall barn, indoor and outdoor rings and a jump field. Three farms in the neighboring town of Lee also won awards: DeMeritt Hill Farm in 2007, Flag Hill Distillery and Winery in 2009 and Coppal House Farm in 2015. The Project is not near or visible from these farms.
- Farm Stands-The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods publishes a Directory of Farm Stands. The 2017 directory included one farm stand in Project area communities: Liberty Hill Farm at 62 Bennett Road in Durham (sheep, yarn, Theresa Walker). Currently there does not appear to be a farm stand at this site. Coppal House Farm and Hickory Nut Farm, both in the neighboring town of Lee, also were on the list. The Project is not visible from any farm stands.
- Durham Farm Day-The Durham Agricultural Commission (Theresa Walker, Chair and Ray LaRoche, Jr., Vice-Chair), sponsors the Annual Durham Farm Day in partnership with UNH, USDA and local agricultural operators. Typically held on the third Saturday in August (10-4 pm), Farm Day includes tours of farms and gardens and UNH research facilities. Recent participants include Emery Farm, LaRoche Farm, UNH Organic Garden, UNH Fairchild Dairy Farms, Woodman Horticultural Farm, Linden Woods Farm and Tecce Farm (Mast Road/Route 155A). The Project is not visible from any of these locations. However, the Project team is aware of this and other events at UNH and elsewhere in Durham, and will coordinate with the town, UNH and event organizers to ensure that the Project does not affect any events.
- Wineries and Breweries-The State of New Hampshire publishes and distributes brochures and maps about wineries and breweries in New Hampshire. The only winery in the region is Flag Hill Distillery and Winery on Route 155 in Lee near Route 125, far from the Project corridor. There are no breweries in Madbury or Durham, one in Newington and six in Portsmouth. Stoneface Brewing is located in a commercial/industrial area of Newington and is not along the corridor. Redhook Brewery is located at Pease in Portsmouth. The brewery offers daily tours, a pub/restaurant, two private meeting spaces (180 and 56 guests), an outdoor beer garden and patio (200 guests) and a lawn/BBQ area for gatherings. Events in 2018 include the Friday evening April 27 Block Party (6–10 pm), Cycle the Seacoast on Sunday May 6 (fund raiser for Lung Association that starts and ends at Redhook), Runners Alley/Redhook Memorial 5k Road Race on Sunday May 27, Cisco Summer Kickoff on Friday evening June 22 (6–10 pm), Kona Luau on Friday event July 13 (6-10 pm), the 4th

New England Country Music Festival on Sunday August 12 (1–11 pm), the Food Truck Festival in October and the Annual Brewfest in late October. Although the Project is not visible from these facilities, the Project will coordinate with municipalities and event organizers to ensure that there are no impacts during construction.

UNH Agricultural Facilities - UNH has a number of agricultural facilities that we have considered. Some are on the UNH campus and some are in other locations. They include:

- Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center on O’Kane Road, with about 160 cows. The facility is open to the public seven days per week, from 8 – 6pm, with milk at 3:30. The facility is on the west edge of campus, north of the intersection of Route 4 and Main Street. It is not near the Project corridor.
- Kingman Research Farm, a 360-acre property on Route 155 across from the Madbury Police and Fire Station, about 3 miles from the UNH campus. The property also includes the UNH composting facilities and several popular trails;
- MacFarlane Research Greenhouses, primarily a research and teaching facility, is located west of A-Lot and Sage Way. The annual UNH Greenhouse Open House is held on Friday and Saturday March 23-24, 2018 with the second day coinciding with the annual Home and Garden Show held March 24-25 at the Whittemore Center. Underground construction in A-Lot will occur during the summer and will not affect these events.
- Organic Dairy Research Farm, a 275-acre property in Lee, has 100 registered Jersey cows and hosts some visitors and field trips. It is about seven miles from the UNH campus;
- The Woodman Horticultural Research Farm, a 155-acre property on the western edge of campus, also hosts some visitors. Access is from Mast Road Extension. It is not near the Project corridor.
- Moore Field, a 90-acre property with woodlands and tilled land, which is located on Route 155-A, towards Lee, and the 205-acre Thompson Farm, which has hayfields and tillable land for forage and corn silage.
- Equine facilities, including a 40-stall barn and turnout/pasture facilities, an indoor and an outdoor riding area, 3 competition arenas, and a competition course, located on the north side of Main Street, just west of the traffic circle. The Project will not affect access to this facility.
- The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, assists the NH Commissioner of Agriculture and State Veterinarian in their efforts to monitor and control animal diseases is located west of A-Lot, Sage Way, and the greenhouses north of Main Street. The Project will not affect access to this facility.

In summary, there are no agricultural facilities adjacent to the Project route that may attract visitors to the area. A gardening business is located on Longmarsh Road in Durham within the ROW; however it does not attract visitors to that location. The Applicant has been coordinating with the gardening business owner to address the business concerns and minimize potential impacts. Most of the UNH sites are west of the existing railroad line and Project corridor. Those on Bennett Road are south of the existing ROW. The Project will not be visible from any of

these facilities, and will not affect their uses. The Project intends to have an MOU with UNH and the town of Durham to ensure that construction is well coordinated with the town and university.

VISUAL ASSESSMENTS

As part of our analysis of potential impacts on tourism, we reviewed and considered the reports and testimony of Mr. David Raphael of LandWorks and Mr. Michael Lawrence of Michael Lawrence Associates. We also visited the areas in which identified attractions are located, and considered the purpose of visitor trips to each site in the vicinity of the Project corridor. The following is a summary of some of the key points of the visual assessments as they relate to tourism and regional recreation.

LandWorks, a firm with strong experience and expertise in visual impact assessments, conducted a comprehensive inventory and viewshed analysis of scenic resources within a 20-mile study area and evaluated the Project's potential effects on these resources. A description of the methodology is included in the pre-filed testimony and reports of David Raphael, principal and owner of LandWorks.

Mr. Raphael describes a number of measures employed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts to aesthetics at several locations in Durham and Newington. The measures include placement of the Project within an existing utility corridor, placing four segments underground, relocation and/or reductions in the height of structures, and choosing types and colors of structures to reduce visibility. Vegetative screening also will be used for additional mitigation in key locations.

Within the 20-mile study area, LandWorks identified nine (9) scenic resources for further evaluation in their report: (1) Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Newington; (2) Little Bay Road in Newington; (3) Cedar Point/Back River Road off Route 4 in Durham; (4) Scammell Bridge on Route 4 in Durham/Dover; (5) Wagon Hill Farm in Durham; (6) Fox Point in Newington; (7) UNH Campus in Durham; (8) Garrison Hill Tower in Dover; and (9) Stratham Hill Park in Stratham.

Mr. Raphael concluded that "the Project will not have an unreasonable adverse affect on aesthetics. While the height of structures associated with the Project are higher than what is currently present in the ROW, the overall visibility of the proposed structures and their effect on the various resources and vantage points we evaluated is not substantive enough to alter the use and enjoyment of the resources".

LandWorks also evaluated aesthetics on each side of Little Bay and described associated avoidance and mitigation measures. On, page 13, lines 8-17 of Mr. Raphael's testimony, he stated that "Another location where LandWorks has recommended avoidance and minimization measures is at the crossing of Little Bay. On the Durham side, PSNH purchased land to relocate the transition structure, where the line transitions from overhead to underground/underwater cable, away from the water's edge to significantly reduce visibility from the Bay. On the Newington side, the undergrounding of the cable in Gundalow Landing reduces visibility. Plantings in this area may also [act] to buffer the structure on the east side of Little Bay Road. This would mitigate views from Little Bay Road and Gundalow Landing. It is

my understanding, however, that there may be some technical limitations on the size, type, and location of vegetation that may be planted in this area due to the underground facilities and overhead clearance concerns.”

Regarding potential visibility of structures from boaters on Little Bay, Mr. Raphael explained that (Page 15, lines 3-17), “On the west side of Little Bay in Durham the transition structures to the underwater cable section will be visible from the water, but are well over 2,000 feet from the boat channel where most people would be viewing. With the purchase of property on the west shore, the visual impact is further minimized as the structures were able to be moved from the water’s edge to approximately 360 feet back from the shoreline. The analysis conducted from the water, and using the simulation, indicated that visibility would be transitory and mitigated by the fact that the surrounding vegetation was as high if not higher than the structures themselves. The set back of the transition structure from the shoreline helps screen them to the north and the south by land and intervening vegetation. This is not a pristine or overly scenic portion of Little Bay. Thus, the view of this facility would have a lower visual effect.

The view of the Project from those nearby portions of Great Bay, and the National Wildlife Refuge, is qualified by the fact that the structures will barely be visible above the tree line and will not be prominent, or draw the eye. The intactness of the landscape and shoreline will not be compromised by the presence of the Project.”

Mr. Raphael also examined the potential visual impact of the concrete mattresses proposed to be installed on either side of Little Bay at the point where the cables transition from the shoreline to the underwater installation. He concluded that the “mattress installation will not be obtrusive or have any real negative effect to the viewscape of the Little Bay Channel. These factors include the nature of the view and the context of the view. The views of the two sites are to the side of the channel as opposed to being in the foreground or direct view of boaters and paddlers. Observations on several site visits indicated primarily north south traffic and the eye and the experience tend to be focused on points to the north and south rather than directly at the shorelines perpendicular to the view.”

Mr. Michael Lawrence, principal of Michael Lawrence Associates, was hired by Counsel for the Public to review the visual assessment prepared by LandWorks and offer his own testimony and report on what he considered to be potential impacts associated with aesthetics. On page 4 of his report, Mr. Lawrence agreed with the statement on page 95 of the LandWorks report which describes the lack of overall visibility of the Project and states that “Typical Project visibility is limited to crossing points on local roads and state highways, a few open areas (some in parking areas) and a short section on the UNH campus. Visibility is limited due to the extensive tree cover and woodland landscapes in many sections with tree heights typically 55 to 65 feet”.

Mr. Lawrence generally agreed with LandWork’s conclusions regarding the lack of visual effect on the nine scenic resources identified by LandWorks, with the exception of the UNH campus. He expressed concern about overhead poles and wires near UNH’s Gables apartment complex, Gregg Hall, and vegetative clearing for the underground line southwest of the railroad overpass near the Fieldhouse. He also expressed concern about aesthetics at the crossings of Fox Point Road, Durham Point Road, Sandy Brook Drive (east and west), fFrost Drive, Cutts Road, Route

108, Mill Road, Main Street and Route 4. Mr. Lawrence recommended simple plantings of height-appropriate species to provide immediate and economical visual mitigation for these sites.

Mr. Raphael reviewed locations identified by Mr. Lawrence and concluded that “these locations do not qualify as scenic resources nor do they rise to the level of being overly sensitive or requiring specific mitigation.” However, to address concerns about these road crossings and other locations, Mr. Raphael is developing potential planting plans (vegetative screening plans) to reduce some of the potential identified visual impacts of the project. See Supplemental Testimony of David Raphael, July 17, 2018.

In consideration of the opinions expressed by Mr. Raphael and Mr. Lawrence, and the location and use of visitor attractions promoted by the state and regional travel and tourism organizations, it is clear that the visibility of the Project will not have a significant effect on tourism and regional recreational resources.

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, most of the seacoast region’s tourist-oriented sites, facilities, activities and events are located in other parts of the region, especially along the Atlantic coast, where beaches, harbors, state parks, and the majority of tourist-oriented restaurants and shops are located. Downtown Portsmouth, which is approximately 1.7 miles from the Project, has a concentration of restaurants, retail shops, historic sites, boat tours, accommodations and events that draw and serve visitors in the area.

Based on a review of state and regional visitor guides and other published tourism information and the location and use of visitor attractions in the seacoast area, it is clear that there are few tourist attractions in the vicinity of the SRP route. Operation of the Project will not affect the number of people who visit these attractions.

We have identified some attractions where temporary, short-term, localized impacts during construction potentially could occur. This includes construction on the UNH campus, at the crossing of Little Bay, and at The Crossing mall area in Newington. None of these impacts will be significant.

The Seacoast Reliability Project will not have an adverse effect on tourism or regional recreation in the region. This conclusion is based on several factors, including:

1. There are few visitor attractions in the vicinity of the Project route;
2. With the exception of the overhead segment in the commercial/industrial area north of Gosling Road, the Project will be underground where it passes identified visitor attractions such as the Whittemore Center, Dairy Bar/Amtrak Station, Fieldhouse/Wildcat Stadium, Little Bay and the Newington Center Historic District.
3. State scenic byways are promoted to visitors by the state and some regional groups. There is only one crossing of a state-designated scenic byway, and the crossing is within an existing powerline right-of-way. The Applicant made design changes in consultation with

the Town of Durham and the NHDOT, which reduce visibility of the new structures. The Project will not affect the number of visitors who travel on Route 108.

The Project will be overhead in a commercial/industrial area east of the Spaulding Turnpike, and will pass through the parking lot for The Crossings, an open air mall with national big box merchants, restaurants, a large cinema and ample, free parking. The Crossings is the only visitor attraction along the Project route where the Project will be overhead. This heavily developed area already includes overhead electric transmission lines and supporting structures that are highly visible. Design changes made by the Project include repositioning structures within the parking lot islands to avoid infringing on mall parking spaces, and redesigning the line to accommodate the lighting encroachment, and avoiding the removal of existing lighting structures in the western parking lot.

The Project team is coordinating with The Crossings and will conduct meetings with management to ensure that the traffic control plan accommodates the mall's access and circulation needs throughout construction. The Applicant will coordinate closely with these businesses to avoid and minimize potential construction impacts. Construction will be timed to avoid the peak holiday shopping season.

Longhorn Steakhouse, McDonalds, IHop, and the former Bugaboo Creek restaurant are located near The Crossings mall complex in Newington, and are near the Project right-of-way. The SRP will not affect the number of patrons at the mall and nearby restaurants.

Motel 6 will have some visibility of the Project (looking beyond the Longhorn and McDonalds restaurants). Currently, existing transmission lines and structures, as well as the Newington power plant, are highly visible from Gosling Road and the Motel 6 exit point [and the visual expert classified the area as industrial due to the existing infrastructure]. Construction and operation of the SRP will not reduce the number of people who stay at this motel, and business may increase if some construction workers stay there.

4. With respect to visual considerations from Little Bay, the Project will be submarine for a distance of over one mile, and will continue underground on the Newington side of the Bay. The underground cables will not be visible to tour companies, boaters, or fishermen. While the transition structures in Durham will be somewhat visible, they have been redesigned and relocated further away from the shoreline, and the existing brick cable house near the Bay will be relocated and restored. An expert visual consultant assessed visibility of the SRP transmission structures from Little Bay and concluded that the Project is "well over 2,000 feet from the boat channel where most people would be viewing. With the purchase of property on the west shore, the visual impact is further minimized as the structure were able to be moved from the water's edge to approximately 360 feet back from the shoreline. The analysis conducted from the water, and using the simulation, indicated that visibility would be transitory and mitigated by the fact that the surrounding vegetation was as high if not higher than the structures themselves. The set back of the transition structure from the shoreline helps screen them to the north and the south by land and intervening vegetation. This is not a pristine or overly scenic portion of Little Bay. Thus, the view of this facility would have a lower visual effect." No overhead transition structure will be visible on the Newington side of the Bay.

As part of the underground cable installation, concrete mattresses will be placed on each shoreline, and have been considered. The visual expert concluded that “the concrete mattresses will not draw the eye to any great extent, and they will not be a substantive intrusion into the visual landscape. Thus the proposed placement of the concrete mattresses will not result in an unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics of the Project area.”

5. Although the installation of three submarine cables across Little Bay has the potential to cause minor, short-term disruptions for tour companies, boaters, and fisherman impacts will not be significant and they easily can be avoided if necessary. This conclusion is based on considerations such as:
 - a. Installation work will occur in late September or October, when boating activity is much lighter than during the summer months.
 - b. The navigation channel in Little Bay is a relatively small segment of the crossing of Little Bay (which is over one mile wide). It is anticipated that jet plowing in the navigation channel will be limited to three separate days in the fall.
 - c. The Project team will coordinate and communicate with the US Coast Guard , NH Marine Patrol, NH Port Authority, NH Fish and Game, NH Coastal Program, municipalities, boaters and fishermen, boat tour companies and others regarding the construction schedule and notifications to potentially affected parties. This will enable tour companies, boaters, and fishermen to avoid the construction area if desired or necessary.
 - d. If there are any short-term temporary limitations on navigation or fishing in the right-of-way during construction, tour companies, boaters, and fishermen have ample opportunities to enjoy other areas in Great Bay, Little Bay, Portsmouth Harbor, the Piscataqua River, and other rivers.
6. Construction of the Project will not impact events that draw visitors to the area. The Project team has been compiling a list of events in the Project communities and the region. Most events are held on weekends, and most of the seacoast events are not along the Project corridor. The Project team already has been reaching out to event organizers, UNH and municipalities and will continue to coordinate with them to ensure that any potential impacts are avoided.
7. The Project will not affect the number of visitors to historic sites in Newington. The SRP will be underground as it crosses a portion of the Newington Center Historic District in a field at the Frink Farm, and will continue underground as it crosses Nimble Hill Road. In addition, the existing overhead electric line crossing the Frink Farm and Nimble Hill Road will be removed and relocated.
8. Eversource negotiated a MOU with the town of Newington and is in the process of negotiating similar MOUs with UNH and the town of Durham. It is Eversource’s intent that these become conditions to be incorporated into the SEC certificate to help ensure that the SRP will avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to the environment and disruption to the public, as well as achieve common goals and consistent practices in furtherance of these goals.

9. The MOUs include agreement on topics such as daily and weekly meetings, with the ability to stop construction if there are any construction concerns; the hours for construction; time of year restrictions for excavation; identification of access routes to certain overhead structures; use of weathered steel structures in wooded sections and galvanized steel for some structures; procedures for tree removal, relocation and disposal; conformance with state and federal rules for blasting; vegetative screening and plantings, and repair and/or replacement of any existing utility systems impacted during construction. Each MOU will be customized to the particular concerns and needs of each entity.
10. The Eversource Project team has indicated that it will continue to coordinate with Project communities, local and regional tourism and recreation groups, environmental organizations, state and federal agencies, chambers of commerce and tourist-oriented businesses to ensure that any potential or perceived temporary impacts to visitor and tourist-related sites and activities are avoided and minimized.

The Seacoast Reliability Project will not have an adverse effect on tourism and recreation in the seacoast area. Construction and operation of the SRP will not affect the number of visitors who travel to Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth for tourism and recreation. Short term, temporary construction impacts will be minimal. Public outreach and communications efforts will be important to ensure that potential impacts during construction are avoided and minimized.

APPENDIX 1: REVIEW OF VISITOR GUIDES AND WEBSITES

New Hampshire: The Official Visitors Guide (2016-2017)

The following is a list of visitor sites in the seacoast region that are included in the Official Visitors Guide (2016-2017) for New Hampshire.

Seacoast Region:

Agriculture and Family Farm Activities (p.34): Apple Annie (Brentwood); Applecrest Farm Orchards (Hampton Falls); Blueberry Bay Farm (Stratham); Coppal House Farm (Lee); DeMeritt Hill Farm (Lee); Emery Farm (Durham); Firebird Farm (Lee); Flag Hill Distillery and Winery (Lee); Hickory Hill Farm (Dover); Jewell Towne Vineyards and Winery (South Hampton); Saltbox Farm (Stratham); Tonvy Farm (Hampton Falls); and Zorvino Vineyards (Sandown).

Arts History and Culture (p. 34-36): Albacore Park (Portsmouth); American Independence Museum (Exeter); Artists Collaborative Theatre of NE/Act One (Portsmouth); Brentwood Historical Society; Children's Museum of NH (Dover); Discover Portsmouth Center (Portsmouth); Epping Historical Society and Museum; Exeter Fine Crafts (Exeter); Exeter Historical Society; Fuller Gardens (Hampton); Garrison Players Art Center (Rollinsford); Gilman Garrison House (Exeter); Governor John Langdon House (Portsmouth); Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom (Hampton); Hampton Historical Society; Jackson House (Portsmouth); John Paul Jones House (Portsmouth); UNH Paul Creative Arts Center/Johnson Theatre/Museum of Art (Durham); Leddy Center for the Performing Arts (Epping); Main Street Art (Newfield); Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden (Portsmouth); The Music Hall (Portsmouth); New England Curiosities (Portsmouth); Newmarket Historical Society; Old Meeting House (Sandown); O'Neil Cinemas (Epping); Pontine Theatre (Portsmouth); Portsmouth Athenaeum (Portsmouth); Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail (Portsmouth); Portsmouth Historic House (Portsmouth); Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra (Portsmouth); Rochester Historical Society; Rochester Museum of Fine Arts; Rochester Opera House; Rundlet-May House (Portsmouth); Salmon Falls Stoneware (Dover); Seacoast African American Cultural Center (Portsmouth); Seacoast Repertory Theatre (Portsmouth); Seacoast Science Center (Rye); Shoals Marine Laboratory (Portsmouth); Strafford Wind Symphony (Rochester); Stratham Historical Society; Strawberry Banke Museum (Portsmouth); Tobias Lear House (Portsmouth); Warner House (Portsmouth); Wentworth-Gardner House (Portsmouth); Woodman Museum (Dover). (Note: Although the state's visitors guide does not list historical societies or historical museums in Madbury, Durham, Newington or Portsmouth, we have considered any that exist in these towns.)

Attractions and Entertainment: (p. 38): Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation (Portsmouth); Granite State Growler Tours (North Hampton); Great Bay Discovery Center (Greenland); North Country Hard Cider Company (Rollinsford); Portsmouth Brewery; Portsmouth Eats; Redhook Brewery (Portsmouth); Rinks at Exeter; Rumble Tumble (Portsmouth); Science and Nature Center at Seabrook Station (Seabrook); Seacoast Brew Tours (Portsmouth); Smuttynose Brewery Co (Hampton); Throwback Brewery (North Hampton); Deciduous Brewing in Newmarket. (Note: Although Stoneface Brewery in Newington is not listed, we have considered this facility.)

Outdoor Activities, Venues and Services (p. 38-40): Al Gauron Deep Sea Fishing and Whale Watching (Hampton Beach); Atlantic Fishing and Whale Watch (Rye); Captains Cove Adventure Golf (Hampton); Casino Cascade Water Slide (Hampton Beach); Clandestino Fishing Charters (Rye); Eastman's Fishing Fleet (Seabrook); Gundalow Company (Portsmouth); Hilltop Fun Center (Somersworth); Isles of Shoals Steamship Company (Portsmouth); Malagar Group/Sail New Hampshire (Rye); Papa Wheelie's Bicycle Shop (Portsmouth); Portsmouth Harbor Cruises (Portsmouth); Portsmouth Kayak Adventures (Portsmouth); Rye Airfield Skateboard Park and Ramp Camp (Rye); Seacoast Helicopters (Portsmouth); Seacoast NH Heritage Tours (Stratham); Shoals Fly-Fishing and Light Tackle (Portsmouth); Star Island/Isle of Shoals (Portsmouth); Urban Forestry Center (Portsmouth); Water Country (Portsmouth).

Campgrounds (p.40): Angle Pond Grove (Sandown); Country Shore Camping Area (Kingston); Emerson Campground (Hampstead); Exeter Elms Campground (Exeter); Ferndale Acres Campground (Lee); Grand View Campground (Rochester); Great Bay Camping (Newfields); Green Gate (Exeter); Old Stage Campground (Madbury); Sanborn Shores Acres (Hampstead); Shel-Ac Campground (North Hampton); Sunset Park Campground (Hampstead); Three Ponds Campground (Brentwood); Tidewater Campground (Hampton); Tuxbury Pond RV Resort (South Hampton); Wakeda Campground (Hampton Falls); Wellington Camping Park (Lee). There are no campgrounds listed in Durham, Newington, or Portsmouth.

State Parks and Historic Sites (p.40): Fort Constitution Historic Site (New Castle); Fort Stark Historic Site (New Castle); Hampton Beach State Park; Jenness State Beach (Rye); Kingston State Park; North Beach (Hampton); North Hampton State Beach; Ordiorne Point State Park (Rye); Rye Harbor State Park; Wallis Sands State beach (Rye); and Wentworth Coolidge Mansion Historic Site (Portsmouth). There are no state park properties listed in Madbury, Durham, or Newington, and the Portsmouth properties are not near the Project corridor.

Scenic Byways (p.40): American Independence Byway (Exeter, Kensington, Hampton Falls, Hampton); Coastal Byway (Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, North Hampton, Hampton Beach);

Colonial New Hampshire Seacoast Ride (Portsmouth, New Castle, Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Exeter). [Note: Although Mills Scenic Byway (Route 108 in Newmarket, Durham, Madbury and Rollinsford) is not included, it likely will be added in the future, and has been considered in our review.]

Bed and Breakfasts (p.41): Sixteen seacoast region B and B's are listed, including Pines Guest House (Durham) and Three Chimneys Inn (Durham); and four in Portsmouth. None in Madbury or Newington were listed.

Hotels and Motels (p.41-44): Seventy-three seacoast-region hotels and motels are listed, including one (Holiday Inn Express) in Durham and seventeen in Portsmouth, including the Residence Inn at Pease. There are none in Madbury or Newington.

Under the topic of "arts, history and culture," the state's Official Visitors Guide includes the UNH Museum of Art and the Johnson Theatre, both of which are located at the Paul Creative Arts Center (PCAC) in Durham. This facility is 0.2 mile east of, but not adjacent to the Project corridor. The Project does not appear to be visible from this location. Parking is located in the downtown area in C-Lot on Mill Road across from the shopping center, and at the UNH Visitors Center (with bus service). Academic Way, which is accessed from Mill Road and is not a through street, also has a limited number of metered parking spaces along the street near the PCAC.

The Guide also lists "top events" in the seacoast region, and none of these events is held near the Project corridor. (Note: we identified some other events that are closer to the Project corridor, and they are described elsewhere in this report).

Under the topic of "attractions and entertainment" Redhook Brewery in Portsmouth and the opportunity for area craft brewery tours (which presumably could include Redhook in Portsmouth and Stoneface Brewery in Newington at times) are listed. The breweries are not adjacent to the Project corridor and do not appear to have visibility of the Project. Text in the Guide also mentions hockey games at UNH's Whittemore Center, hiking the Great Bay shoreline and visiting the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth.

Under the topic "outdoor activities, venues and services," the Guide lists three companies: Seacoast Helicopters, Gundalow Company and Portsmouth Harbor Cruises, all of which are based in Portsmouth and are not based near the Project corridor. However, it should be noted that Portsmouth Harbor Cruises and Gundalow Company sometimes operate on Little and Great Bays. A detailed description of their tours is included in this report. The Project team will continue to coordinate with management of these companies on the construction schedule

so they can avoid the corridor, if necessary, when the Little Bay installation occurs. Seacoast Helicopters is located within the Pease International Tradeport towards the Pease Golf Course. It advertises scenic tours on its website; these tours include some of Great Bay but primarily are focused on Portsmouth, the Atlantic coastline, lighthouses, and the Isle of Shoals.

The Guide includes only one campground in a Project community, Old Stage Campground in Madbury. It is not near the Project corridor. It also does not list any scenic byways near the Project corridor. However, our report describes and considers the state-designated Mills Scenic Byway (Route 108) which intersects the Project corridor at the existing electric line right-of-way.

The Guide lists about 90 bed and breakfast, hotels and motels, lodges, cabins and cottages and resorts in the seacoast area, including Three Chimneys Inn, Pines Guest House and Holiday Inn Express in Durham and the Motel 6 on Gosling Road and Residence Inn on International Drive in Portsmouth. The Durham accommodations are not near the Project corridor. The Residence Inn at Pease is somewhat near but is not adjacent to the corridor (0.26 mile south, 0.68 miles driving). Motel 6 is on the south side of Gosling Road, where numerous existing electric lines, structures and two existing power plants are visible.

The Guide does not include restaurants. Although there are many in the seacoast area, the only restaurants near the Project route are in Durham and Newington. They include the UNH Dairy Bar/Amtrak Station in Durham, and the Longhorn and McDonalds restaurants on Gosling Road (south of the right-of-way) and Chipotle, Bugaboo Creek (closed) and IHop in the mall area (north of the corridor), in the commercial area east of the Spaulding Turnpike. The Project will be underground in A-Lot in the vicinity of the UNH Dairy Bar. Construction plans for the parking lot of The Crossing mall in Newington is being coordinated with management of The Crossing mall and individual businesses in the area to ensure that adequate access and parking will be maintained. We considered Newick's Lobster House on the Dover Point waterfront, which looks west towards Little Bay but there is no visibility of the Project.

The Guide has a listing of state associations associated with food and farm products, nature and outdoor recreation, lodging, arts and history. Relevant information from these websites also has been considered in this report.

The Guide also lists several events, including the Chowder Festival at Prescott Park and Market Square Day in June, Prescott Park Arts Festival July and August, Redhook's Country Fest in August, Food Truck Festival in October and Brewfest in late October, July 4th fireworks (on the 3rd) at South Mill Pond in Portsmouth, the Holiday Parade and First Night in Portsmouth and the Hampton Beach Seafood Festival in September. These events, and others, are typically held on weekends or holidays.

The 2017-2018 Visitor and Relocation Guide – Greater Dover, NH

New Hampshire is produced and distributed by the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce. On page 8 of the Guide, the Chamber lists the “Top 10 Things to Do” as: (1) Children’s Museum of NH; (2) Cochecho Arts Festival; (3) Woodman Museum; (4) Destination Shopping in Dover; (5) Apple Harvest Day (first Saturday of October); (6) Dover Recreation (highlighting swimming at the Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool and ice skating at the Dover Ice Arena); (7) Garrison Hill Tower (76-foot tower on hill north of downtown Dover); (8) Dover Farmers Market; (9) Walk and Bike Dover; and (10) Explore the Cohecho River. None of these sites or activities is near the Project corridor, and none will be affected.

Only a few visitor attractions in Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth are listed in the Visitor and Relocation Guide: Old Stage Campground in Madbury; UNH Museum of Art and UNH Theatre and Dance at the Paul Creative Arts Center and Three Chimneys Inn/fFrost Sawyer Tavern in Durham, Fox Run Mall in Newington; and the Gundalow Company and Portsmouth Harbor Cruises in Portsmouth. None of these sites or attractions is along the Project corridor. However, the Gundalow Company and Portsmouth Harbor Cruises sometimes operate in Little and Great Bay where the Project will be underground.

The Chamber’s Visitor and Relocation Guide also points out that Dover is New Hampshire’s fastest-growing city and that “the area’s highly-trained yet affordable employee base combined with solid infrastructure and transportation options – highway, rail, air and port – makes the Greater Dover area attractive to existing businesses, as well as to new and relocating businesses” (page 55).

Harbor Guide – the Official Guide to the Seacoast and Portsmouth, New Hampshire (“Harbor Guide”) is prepared and distributed to visitors by the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth. The Harbor Guide includes sections about: fun things to see and do; top spots to dine; best places to shop; hotels, inns and B & B’s; and essentials (transportation, fitness classes, parking, Wi-Fi).

The Harbor Guide has information about Portsmouth Harbor Cruises, Gundalow Company and Port City Bike Tours and briefly mentions Seven Rivers Paddling, Great Bay Marine, and Great Bay Yacht Club in Dover. Kayaking the inlets of Great Bay is also mentioned as a form of recreation. Eating establishments include Redhook Brewery and Stoneface Brewing, Paddy’s Grille, Grille 28 at the Pease Golf Course and Newick’s Restaurant in Dover. Three Chimneys Inn in Durham and Residence Inn at Pease were listed in the lodging section.

Pro Portsmouth

Pro Portsmouth organizes a number of successful events that are enjoyed by area residents and visitors. Popular events include Market Square Day and 10K Road Race, First Night Portsmouth, Children’s Day and Summer in the Street. None of these events is located near the Project corridor.

Pro Portsmouth also helps promote the Seacoast Road Race Series which includes 8 road races in the area. One of these races is called the Fox Point Sunset 5-Mile Road Race in Newington (Saturday, September 8) and another is called the Runner’s Alley/Redhook Memorial 5K Road

Race in Portsmouth (Sunday, May 27). The Project team will coordinate with local governments and the organizers of both events to ensure that the race routes, and access to parking and the start and finish lines, are not affected by the Project on those days.

Trip Advisor Top Things to Do

This website is the world’s largest travel website located at www.tripadvisor.com, covering accommodations, airlines, experiences and restaurants with consumer reviews and rankings. Its site identifies and rates the “Top Ten Things to Do” by location. There are no “Things to Do” listings for Madbury. The top “Things to Do” listed for Durham, Newington and Portsmouth (as of July 2018) include:

Durham	Newington	Portsmouth
Wagon Hill Farm	Stoneface Brewery	Discover Portsmouth
Emery Farm	Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge	Isles of Shoals
The Candy Bar and Creamery	The Mall at Fox Run	Strawbery Banke
Adams Point	The Crossings	Market Square
UNH Observatory	Regal Fox Run Stadium 15	USS Albacore Museum
Main Street Makery	Cyntillation Aquatics	Prescott Park
Mill Pond Center for the Arts	Glowgolf	The Music Hall
	Raider Laser	Historical & Heritage Tours
		Sightseeing Tours

PortsmouthNH.com

On the website portsmouthnh.com, we reviewed “things to do” that were grouped into categories such as attractions; tours; landmarks; museums; fishing, whale watches and boat charters; sports and recreation; and breweries, cideries, wineries and distilleries. The Gundalow Company was the only “attraction” on this website that is relevant to the Project. Gundalow Company and Port City Bike Tours were listed under the “tour” category. The Project will coordinate with both companies to avoid any potential short-term temporary impacts. None of the “landmarks” or “museums” on this website is near the Project route. Redhook Ale Brewery in Portsmouth and Stoneface Brewing in Newington are not adjacent to the corridor, but are in the general vicinity. It does not appear that the Project will be visible from these locations and no impacts are to be expected. However, the Project will coordinate with Redhook before and

during construction to account for Redhook events. Gundalow Company and Portsmouth Harbor Cruises are promoted under the “fishing, whale watch, boat charter” category. The SRP team will continue to coordinate with both companies to avoid impacts when cables are installed under Little Bay.

Many “sports and recreation” opportunities, especially golf courses, are listed on the site. None is along or near the Project corridor.