

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. QUINLAN**

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

**THE SEACOAST RELIABILITY PROJECT**

**July 27, 2018**



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

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

6           **Q.     Briefly summarize your educational background and work experience.**

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

10          **Q.     What is the purpose of your testimony?**

11          A.     The purpose of my supplemental pre-filed testimony is to provide an update to my  
12 pre-filed direct testimony dated April 12, 2016 and my amended pre-filed testimony dated March  
13 29, 2017 and make clear the Company’s firm commitment to pursue mitigation of potential  
14 impacts that may occur as a result of construction of the Seacoast Reliability Project (the  
15 “Project”).

16          **Q.     Please explain the difference between a reliability project and an elective  
17 project.**

18          A.     A regional reliability project is one that has been identified by Independent  
19 System Operator-New England (ISO-NE) as necessary to maintain reliability of the electric grid  
20 in the region. The prudently incurred costs associated with such reliability projects are  
21 socialized across New England through a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-approved  
22 transmission tariff. As noted in my pre-filed testimony, approximately 9% of regionalized  
23 project costs are borne by customers in the State of New Hampshire. The Project has been  
24 identified by ISO-NE as necessary to support New England grid reliability, due to growing  
25 demand in the Seacoast Region. In addition, an important feature of this reliability Project, is  
26 that it will directly benefit a fast-growing area in New Hampshire, specifically the Seacoast,  
27 where the Project is being constructed and operated. *See* Supplemental Pre-Filed Direct  
28 Testimony of Robert Andrews.

1 In contrast, elective projects are projects that have not been identified by ISO-NE as  
2 necessary for grid reliability purposes. Such elective projects are developed and paid for through  
3 alternate funding sources.

4 **Q. How does Eversource approach the mitigation of potential impacts for a**  
5 **reliability project?**

6 A. Given that reliability project costs will be borne by customers in New Hampshire  
7 and across New England, Eversource is under an obligation to execute its mitigation plan in a  
8 manner that addresses potential impacts in a cost effective, “prudent” manner. Eversource works  
9 carefully to manage reliability project costs and to ensure that such costs reflect a fair balance  
10 between residents and businesses that may be impacted by the project and those who bear the  
11 project costs within the region.

12 **Q. Describe the outreach that Eversource has undertaken since your Amended**  
13 **Pre-Filed Testimony was submitted on March 29, 2017.**

14 A. Since March 2017, Eversource has continued extensive outreach in the  
15 communities where the Project is proposed to be located to inform stakeholders, respond to  
16 questions or concerns, and elicit feedback. A detailed summary of all outreach efforts undertaken  
17 on this Project since 2013 is provided in the Project Outreach Supplement, Attachment A to the  
18 Supplemental Pre-Filed Testimony of Kenneth Bowes and David Plante. Over the past five  
19 years, the company has made substantial efforts to work with municipal officials, the University  
20 of New Hampshire (UNH), individual property owners and other stakeholders to address issues  
21 of concern. As a result of these efforts, improvements were made to the Project design before  
22 the original Application was filed in April 2016 and again in March 2017, as reflected in the  
23 amended Application.

24 Those Project improvements include revisions to the line design resulting in reduced  
25 number of structures; lowered structure heights; relocated structures; reduced visibility of  
26 structures; changed structure type; minimized tree buffer removal; minimized environmental  
27 impact including reduced wetland impacts; revised access plans to minimize traffic impact;  
28 restricted underground construction schedule to minimize impacts to events/activities;  
29 accommodation of some encroachments in the right-of-way; and refined construction plans for  
30 the crossing of Little Bay, as further described in the Supplemental Pre-filed Direct and  
31 Amended Testimony of Kenneth Bowes and the Project Outreach Supplement at Attachment A.

1           As a result of these efforts, the Project received several letters of support submitted to the  
2 SEC from the Town of Madbury, City of Dover, Town of Somersworth, Greater Dover and  
3 Greater Rochester Chambers of Commerce, as well as letters of collaboration from the Town of  
4 Durham and UNH.

5           Eversource remains committed to keeping elected and appointed officials, residents,  
6 businesses, and other stakeholders informed and engaged before, during and after construction.  
7 Eversource has proven success in using this outreach approach with the recent Merrimack Valley  
8 Reliability Project completed in December 2017, which received positive feedback from local  
9 elected officials, the host communities, residents and businesses.

10           **Q.     Provide an update on the business outreach that has occurred for this**  
11 **Project.**

12           **A.**     Eversource has continuously worked to keep local businesses informed, including  
13 abutting businesses such as Atlantic Gymnastics, Cumberland Farms, KeyPoint Partners  
14 (property managers for The Crossings) and various oyster farms within the vicinity of the Little  
15 Bay crossing. Please see the Project Outreach Supplement, Section III, Attachment A to the  
16 Supplemental Pre-Filed Testimony of Kenneth Bowes and David Plante, for a comprehensive  
17 summary of business outreach conducted by Eversource and for additional information on how  
18 Eversource has and plans to continue to work proactively with abutting businesses prior to,  
19 during, and after construction of the Project.

20           Eversource has also engaged with three oyster farms (Fat Dog Shellfish, Joe King's  
21 Oyster Cooperative, and Bay Point Oyster Company) via Project briefings and notifications, in  
22 addition to attending three meetings with oyster farmers organized by New Hampshire Fish and  
23 Game. For example, on September 14, 2015, a boat tour was taken with a representative from  
24 the Joe King's Oyster Cooperative to present an overview of the marine component of the  
25 Project and hear concerns from one of the nearby oyster farms. During the tour, Eversource  
26 responded to questions about modeling, cable installation, protection for oyster farmers and  
27 water quality.

28           As part of the outreach effort, Eversource shifted structures in the vicinity of The  
29 Crossings to avoid parking spaces and modified structure heights to accommodate existing  
30 lighting. The Project team held numerous briefings with other area businesses as described in

1 the Project Outreach Supplement, Attachment A to the Supplemental Pre-Filed Testimony of  
2 Kenneth Bowes and David Plante.

3 Eversource has made presentations to Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs,  
4 including, the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Rochester Chamber of  
5 Commerce, the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce, and the Dover Rotary Club. Eversource  
6 also received letters of support for the Project from the Greater Rochester Chamber of  
7 Commerce and the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce. *See* Project Outreach Supplement.

8 **Q. Certain parties have raised concerns regarding the potential for impacts to**  
9 **their properties, particularly during construction. Please describe the Applicant's**  
10 **mitigation strategy and what has been done to address these concerns.**

11 **A.** Recently, Eversource has completed, or is presently constructing, numerous  
12 transmission line projects in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Eversource  
13 understands that construction of overhead and underground transmission line projects can have a  
14 perceived, and sometimes real, impact to businesses, residents and public areas along the  
15 proposed corridors due to the nature, duration and results of the work, especially in areas in close  
16 proximity to transmission corridors or along streets where activities to support underground  
17 construction will occur. Eversource has protocols in place to avoid and mitigate business and  
18 residential interruption and impacts. Our goal is to avoid or reduce, to the greatest extent  
19 practicable, business and residential interruptions and other construction-related concerns for two  
20 reasons: such an approach benefits those businesses and residents, and it helps avoid costly  
21 project construction delays and claims of loss against Eversource and its contractors.

22 The mitigation strategy has several components. Prior to construction, Eversource  
23 employs planning measures to identify areas and sources of potential concern along the entirety  
24 of the project route. Project outreach and community relations teams work with landowners and  
25 businesses, municipalities, community groups, environmental groups and other interested  
26 stakeholders to provide information about the project, respond to questions raised by those  
27 stakeholders and to explore appropriate mitigation measures; those teams are supported by  
28 engineering, construction, real estate, environmental, vegetation management, and legal groups.  
29 Eversource also seeks input from appropriate subject matter experts to help develop mitigation  
30 strategies and identify, evaluate, and recommend mitigation measures. Eversource evaluates

1 residential areas, businesses and other private and public areas along the route to form a specific  
2 approach to minimize and mitigate potential impacts at each location.

3 As part of this process, Eversource performs GIS desktop and on-site field reviews of the  
4 Project route for construction-related activities that may potentially result in personal property  
5 damage (e.g., fences, electronic dog fences, gates, yard/vegetation/garden/crop impact, drinking  
6 water wells and private septic systems), business/residential/public access restrictions, visual  
7 impacts due to vegetation removal or new structures, access roads and construction pads. Once  
8 that initial review is complete, Eversource will work with resident(s) and/or businesses to  
9 develop a mitigation plan for each location that may be potentially impacted.

10 The Project Outreach Supplement identifies the extensive communication, coordination  
11 and accommodations that have occurred to date consistent with our mitigation strategy.  
12 Eversource seeks to perform work as non-intrusively as possible along the Project route and is  
13 committed to work with all stakeholders to address any concerns that may arise before, during  
14 and after construction.

15 **Q. What mitigation does Eversource routinely employ prior to construction?**

16 **A.** Eversource has significant experience preparing and assessing a multitude of  
17 means and methods to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate potential impacts from the construction,  
18 maintenance and operation of high-voltage transmission lines. Such options include, but are not  
19 limited to: Project design modifications (including structure relocations, changing structure type  
20 or height, access road and construction pad relocation); screening and landscaping plans; paving;  
21 effective traffic management; limited or altered work hours; alternative parking or access  
22 arrangements for employees and customers, including potential transportation to/from business  
23 facility; development of alternative access points (vehicle and pedestrian); temporary off-site  
24 material storage; noise abatement measures; “Business Open During Construction” signage; and  
25 safety measures (signage, temporary fencing) during construction. Eversource has been and will  
26 continue to work with property and business owners who abut the Project corridor to implement  
27 effective mitigation plans. In rare instances, such plans may include acquisition of a property.

28 **Q. If a property owner is concerned about potential impacts to their property,  
29 how can they make their concerns known?**

30 **A.** As part of Eversource’s community outreach efforts, residents, business owners  
31 and other stakeholders are encouraged to contact the Project team with any questions, comments

1 or concerns through the Eversource Project Hotline at 888-926-5334 or email  
2 to NHProjectsInfo@eversource.com. A representative of the Project outreach team or the  
3 responsible contractor will promptly respond and work to resolve the concern in an appropriate  
4 manner.

5 **Q. What steps has Eversource taken to ensure that residents and business**  
6 **owners are aware of Eversource's mitigation process?**

7 **A.** Pursuant to Eversource's outreach program, the Project outreach team will  
8 continue coordination with each business and resident, as described above, to ensure that they are  
9 aware of the Project schedule and work to address their concerns. Eversource has provided  
10 nearby residents and businesses with Project updates via mailers, emails, telephone calls, door  
11 hangers, and/or in-person visits, and will continue to encourage them to contact the Project team  
12 through the dedicated Project email and hotline. Eversource will continue this outreach prior to,  
13 during, and after construction of the Project and will provide all potentially affected residents  
14 and businesses with information on the mitigation process.

15 **Q. What measures will Eversource undertake to keep the SEC informed about**  
16 **property impact concerns and their resolution?**

17 **A.** Eversource will provide periodic reports to the SEC every six months regarding  
18 the results of its mitigation efforts for a period of 3 years after the Project's in-service date.

19 **Q. Does this conclude your supplemental pre-filed testimony?**

20 **A.** Yes, it does.