

State of New Hampshire
Site Evaluation Committee

www.nhsec.nh.gov

21 South Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire
03301-2429
Telephone (603) 271-2435
Fax (603) 271-4033



Martin P. Honigberg
Chair

Robert R. Scott
Vice-Chair

April 25, 2019

Barry Needleman, Esq.
McLane Middleton PA
11 South Main Street
Concord NH 03301

Re: SEC Docket No. 2015-04--Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, Request for a Minor Modification to a Portion of the Underground Alignment Across Parts of the University of New Hampshire Campus

Dear Attorney Needleman:

On January 31, 2019, the Site Evaluation Committee issued an Order and Certificate of Site and Facility with Conditions (Certificate) to Eversource for construction of the above-referenced Project. On April 9, 2019, you provided me with notice and supporting documentation requesting approval of a minor, non-material modification to the underground alignment of the Project across parts of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) campus.

The modification is being made at the request of, and is supported by, UNH and is necessary in order to accommodate the recently constructed soccer and lacrosse field, as well as newly proposed facilities on the UNH campus. Your letter describes the minor modification and includes engineering design documents and civil construction work zone plans. You also included a letter from William Janelle, Associate Vice President of UNH, supporting the request.

Based upon my review of the information provided, there are no observable above-ground changes to the transmission line. The modified alignment will generally be between 5 and 65 feet east of the alignment that was approved by the SEC. The total length of the revised trench alignment is approximately 835 feet of the total 2,100 feet of underground construction in this area. The location of the riser structures will not be changed. The engineering drawings indicate that the transmission line, as modified, will not require different construction techniques and will be installed within an area that was previously disturbed and/or is occupied by other utility lines. No additional tree clearing will be required. Archaeological research conducted on the UNH campus concludes that no below-ground historic resources will be affected. The new alignment modifies the location and extent of proposed temporary wetlands and stream channel impacts and is subject to review and approval by the Department of Environmental Services (DES).

The information provided demonstrates that the transmission line, as modified, will comport with National Electrical Safety Code Rule 320.B.5, which specifies the required separation between electric ducts and gas lines or other lines that transport flammable materials. There is no change in expected levels of electric and magnetic fields. I provided the entire package of information to the Public Utilities Commission, Safety Division for its review as required by the Certificate and Puc 306.01.

Based upon my review of the information provided, the minor change in alignment does not appear to impact aesthetics, historic resources, air or water quality, the natural environment, public health and safety or the orderly development of the region. The redesign and minor modification does not constitute an actual material change in the location, configuration, design, specifications, construction, operation, or equipment component of the Project that would require further review by the Committee. This determination is based solely on the information provided and is not binding or determinative of any future findings or rulings by the Committee.

Consistent with RSA 162-H:4, III-a, page 3 of the Certificate contains a condition that authorizes DES to specify the use of any appropriate technique, methodology, practice or procedure approved by the Subcommittee within the Certificate, as may be necessary, to effectuate the conditions of the Certificate the Wetlands Permit, the Alteration of Terrain Permit, and the Shoreland Permit. Accordingly, this determination is subject to review and approval by DES. Please copy me on all related correspondence to and from DES.

I have substituted Appendix B of the UNH MOU (Appendix IX of the Certificate) with Attachment 3, of your submittal. The as-built drawings required to be filed with the Committee as a condition of the Certificate, shall include this minor change to the route alignment.

Sincerely,



Pamela G. Monroe
Administrator

Ec: Rene Pelletier, DES
David Price, DES
Michael J. Iacopino, Brennan Lenehan
Service List SEC Docket No. 2015-04