

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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October 9, 2019

Re: DE 16-441, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy
Petition for License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines, Neutral Wire and Fiber
Optic Cable Over and Across the Oyster River and Little Bay in the Town of Durham,
NH, and Pickering Brook and Little Bay in the Town of Newington, NH

To the Parties:

On September 30, 2019, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) filed a letter notifying the Commission of its intent to alter the route alignment of the Little Bay submarine cable crossing for which the Commission granted it a license in the above-captioned matter. Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed Eversource's proposed alteration, including the revised plan and profile view of the crossing submitted as Attachment A to Eversource's letter, and issued a further revision to its recommendation on October 8, 2019.

In Order No. 25,998, the Commission granted Eversource a crossing license, which included a license to construct, install, operate, and maintain a 115-kV electric transmission line consisting of three cables underwater in Little Bay between Durham and Newington, subject to approval by the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). That submarine cable crossing is part of Eversource's Seacoast Reliability Project. By secretarial letter dated February 7, 2018, the Commission approved a previous alteration to the Little Bay crossing, based on Staff's January 29, 2018 addendum to its original recommendation.

Eversource stated in its September 30 letter that the formation of sand waves caused by tidal currents in Little Bay had obstructed part of the intended alignment of the submarine cable, so that using the same route could damage the jet plow and cable, as well as prevent full burial depth and security for the cable. Eversource proposed shifting the cable 100 feet or less to the south, which would require approximately 20 feet of additional cable, to avoid those underwater obstructions.

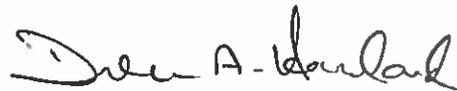
Eversource reported that it had advised the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) of the newly identified sand waves. It stated that USACE determined that Eversource's proposed alteration of the submarine cable route was permitted under USACE's previously issued permit. Eversource stated that it expected to receive all necessary approvals from DES and SEC by October 9, 2019, and planned to begin construction on October 10, 2019.

Staff determined that Eversource's proposed alteration to the Little Bay submarine cable route would have only a minor impact on its prior conclusions regarding the crossing, and it confirmed its recommendation that the crossing be approved. Staff reviewed Order No. 25,998 and concluded that no amendment to the order is necessary to permit Eversource's proposed alteration of its submarine cable route.

Although Staff noted in its recommendation that Eversource did not notify the Commission of the proposed alteration of its cable route within 60 days of the planned construction, consistent with Order No. 25,998, Staff maintained that approval of the proposed alteration with less than 60 days' notice was warranted under the circumstances, which include the involvement of multiple state and federal agencies and a limited construction period. Staff recommended further recommended, however, that "any final as-built records of the completed cable installation be geocoded, and a copy of the completed installation record be provided to the Commission," consistent with the SEC's order and certificate for the Seacoast Reliability Project.

The Commission has reviewed Eversource's September 30 filing and Staff's October 8, 2019 recommendation. Based on Staff's recommendation, the Commission waives the 60-day notice period and approves Eversource's proposed realignment of the cable crossing route subject to the previously-granted crossing license. The Commission finds that no amendment to Order No. 25,998 is necessary. Eversource shall ensure that any final as-built records of the completed cable installation are geocoded and shall file a copy of the complete installation record with the Commission.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

cc: Service List (Electronically)
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