

Pre-Filed Testimony

Revised December 23, 2015



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

SEC Docket No. 2015-05

**APPLICATION OF NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY AND
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE**

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF SHERRIE TREFRY
ON BEHALF OF
NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANY AND
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

1 published by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Surveys consisted of sampling the pools
2 to identify primary and secondary vernal pool indicators species in accordance with Env-Wt 100.

3 VHB conducted an assessment of wetland functions and values for representative wetlands in
4 accordance with *The Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement* (USACE, 1999). Detailed
5 information about the wetlands and streams on the Project site including wetland functions and values
6 assessment forms is contained in the Wetlands Permit Application submitted as Appendix F.

7 **Q. Please summarize the results of your surface waters and wetland resources**
8 **studies.**

9 **A.** One hundred eighty-one wetlands were delineated along Segments 2, 3 and 4 of the
10 Project accounting for approximately 163 acres within the ROW. Wetlands within the Project area
11 include PFO, PSS, PEM, and scattered POW and PAB components. The majority of the delineated
12 wetlands were within the limits of existing maintained transmission ROWs and thus exhibit
13 characteristics (e.g., vegetative cover) typical of this ROW environment. Thirteen perennial stream
14 crossings and 20 intermittent stream crossings were identified within the NH Project ROW. A map
15 series depicting delineated wetlands and surface waters is included as Figure 3.

16 Wetland and surface water impacts were assessed using ESRI ArcGIS[®] desktop software to
17 calculate impact types and areas. The details of these impacts are reported in the Wetlands Permit
18 Application, which is included in Appendix F. Permanent wetland impacts associated with the
19 installation of structures and permanent access wetland crossings total 4,428 square feet (0.10 acre).
20 Temporary wetland impacts for construction access total 385,896 square feet (8.86 acre). Stream
21 impacts for the realignment of one stream channel include 80 square feet of stream bed and 17 linear
22 feet of permanent impact. Temporary stream bed impacts for construction activities totals 6,365 square