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August 15, 2018

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: SEC Docket No. 2015-04: Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a
Eversource Energy for a New 115 kV Transmission Line from Madbury Substation
to Portsmouth Substation
Stipulated Facts and Requested Findings of Applicant and Counsel for the Public**

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned docket, please find Stipulated Facts and Requested Findings of the Applicant and Counsel for the Public.

Please contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Dumville".

Adam M. Dumville

AMD:slb
Enclosure

cc: Distribution List

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

**APPLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY D/B/A
EVERSOURCE ENERGY
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY**

**STIPULATED FACTS AND REQUESTED FINDINGS OF APPLICANT AND
COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC**

New Hampshire Public Service Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Applicant”) and Counsel for the Public agree and stipulate as follows:

STIPULATED FACTS AND REQUESTED FINDINGS

The Project

1. The Applicant proposes to construct and operate a new 12.9 mile 115 kV electric transmission line between existing substations in Madbury and Portsmouth, New Hampshire (the “Project”). The new transmission line is comprised of above ground, underground and underwater segments. The Project is located entirely in New Hampshire, and traverses portions of Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth. The Project includes a submarine cable crossing from Durham to Newington under Little Bay. Appl. E-1.
2. The proposed Project is a reliability project selected by the Independent System Operator of New England (“ISO-NE”) to address identified transmission capacity needs for the continued reliability of the electric transmission system in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region. Appl. E-1. ISO-NE concluded, based on a study commenced in 2010, that additional transmission capacity is necessary in this area to support the reliable delivery of electric power. Appl. E-3.
3. ISO-NE considered a range of alternatives to increase transmission system thermal capacity, to increase transformer thermal capacity, and to improve system voltage performance. ISO-NE chose the present project, in 2012, as the preferred solution “as it is much less costly than the other alternative and addresses the needs in the area.” Appl. E-3; New Hampshire/Vermont Transmission Solutions Study Report, published by ISO-NE in 2012.
4. The corridor for the Project is currently occupied for a 34.5 kV distribution line for 12.1 miles and transmission lines for 0.8 miles. Appl. E-1.

Financial Capability

5. New Hampshire Public Service Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eversource Energy. Appl. 62.
6. The Applicant estimates that the overall cost of the Project will be \$84 million. Substitute Pre-Filed Testimony of Aaron J. Cullen at p. 1.
7. The Applicant has experience securing funding for and financing the construction, operation, and maintenance of similar transmission line projects. Appl. 62.

Technical / Managerial Capability

8. The Applicant has constructed and currently operates thousands of miles of high voltage transmission lines. Eversource and its subsidiaries serve approximately 3.6 million customers across three states. Specifically, in New Hampshire, Eversource is responsible for operating approximately 780 circuit miles of 115 kV, 8 miles of 230 kV, and 252 miles of 345 kV transmission lines and about 204 active transmission and distribution substations. Appl. 64.
9. Examples of transmission projects completed by Eversource include the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project; the Y138 Transmission Line Project; the J125 Transmission Line Project; the Y170 Transmission Line Project; the Long Island Replacement Cable Project; and the Falmouth to Martha's Vineyard Cable Project. Appl. 64–65.
10. The Applicant and its selected contractors have experience in designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining similar transmission facilities throughout New England. Appl. 65–66; Substitute Pre-Filed Direct and Amended Testimony of Kenneth Bowes at p. 1-2 and Att. A; Pre-Filed Testimony and Amended Pre-Filed Testimony of David Plante; Substitute Pre-Filed Testimony of William Wall at p. 2, Att. A–B; Pre-Filed Testimony and Amended Pre-Filed Testimony of Lynn (Farrington) Frazier at p. 1 –2, Att. A.

Aesthetics

11. The Applicant has submitted a Visual Assessment (“VA”), prepared by LandWorks, that analyzed a 10-mile wide linear corridor on either side of the proposed transmission Project’s centerline—an overall 20-mile wide corridor. *See* Appendix 32 at 1. The VA thus analyzed a total area of 361 square miles through 20 towns, four of which are where the Project will be physically located. *See* Appendix 32 at 1.
12. The Project area is placed within an existing Eversource utility corridor currently occupied by a 34.5 kV distribution line for 12.1 miles and transmission lines for 0.8 miles. Appl. at 70.

Historic Sites

13. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources/State Historic Preservation Office (DHR/SHPO) staff have reviewed archaeological studies and determined that the Project will not affect any significant archaeological sites. DHR Final Report, dated Aug. 1, 2017.
14. The DHR/SHPO have concluded that the Project may result in an adverse effect at four historic sites, including, Alfred Pickering Farm, Durham Point Historic District, Little Bay Underwater Cable Terminal Houses Historic District and the Newmarket and Bennet Roads Farms Historic District. DHR Final Report, dated Aug. 1, 2017.
15. The Applicant agrees to comply with DHR/SHPO's requested conditions as outlined on page 3 of DHR's Final Report, dated Aug. 1, 2017.

Environment

Air Quality

16. The Project does not involve the installation of any equipment that combusts fuels or emits any regulated pollutants. No long-term effects on air quality will result from the operation of the proposed transmission lines. Appl. 82.
17. To minimize short-term adverse effects to air quality during construction, the Applicant will utilize appropriate construction BMPs relating to fugitive dust. Appl. 82.

Water Quality

18. On February 28, 2018, the NHDES issued a decision on the parts of the application that relate to NHDES permitting or regulatory authority relative to a Wetland permit, Alteration of Terrain permit, 401 Water Quality Certificate and Shoreland permit. NHDES recommends approval of the application with the conditions that are enclosed with the February 28, 2018 decision.
19. The Applicant has entered into a signed Memorandum of Agreement ("MOU") for Darius Frink Farm Conservation Easement Improvements, dated September 27, 2016. The Applicant agrees to comply with all conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding executed with the Rockingham County Conservation District.
20. The Applicant has entered into a signed Memorandum Of Understanding ("MOU") that includes a Soil and Groundwater Management Plan for underground construction on the Darius Frink Farm in Newington, NH, dated January 24, 2018. The Applicant agrees to

comply with all conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding executed with the Rockingham County Conservation District.

21. The Applicant has also developed a draft Revised Soil and Groundwater Management Plan for the Newington area, provided to the SEC on July 27, 2018, to manage groundwater during construction within the vicinity of the former Pease Air Force Base that is potentially impacted by perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) and/or other contaminants.
22. Permanent direct wetland impacts are below the NHDES threshold for mitigation (10,000 sq. ft. of permanent wetland impact). Secondary impacts due to tree removal exceed that number, and result in the need for federal compensatory wetland mitigation. Therefore, in accordance with applicable USACE regulations and guidance, mitigation is proposed for direct and secondary Project impacts to wetlands and impacts to stream buffers. Mitigation ratios were applied to these anticipated impacts in accordance with the *New England Army Corps of Engineers Mitigation Guidance* document and in coordination with the USACE, and NHDES. Appl. 90.
23. The Applicant has submitted a Revised Environmental Monitoring Plan for Little Bay, on September 15, 2017. Prior to construction, the Applicant will receive approval from DES for the implementation of the plan. The Environmental Monitoring Plan will assess water quality during construction, post-construction topography, and benthic invertebrates.
24. The Applicant has conducted sediment testing that indicates all parameters tested are below regulatory risk thresholds with the exception of Arsenic, which is a common naturally occurring element in NH bedrock. *See* Characterization of Sediment Quality Along Little Bay Crossing (December 1, 2016) and Supplement to Characterization of Sediment Quality Along Little Bay (June 30, 2017).
25. The Applicant has submitted a Cable Removal Plan to NH DES, dated June 30, 2017. The Applicant will comply with all proposed environmental avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures as described in the Cable Removal Plan, including, potential debris mitigation and remedial debris recovery and using pollution prevention measures. All existing cable removed from the seabed will be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws.

Public Health and Safety

26. The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (“ICNIRP”) and International Committee for Electromagnetic Safety (“ICES”) have set guidelines for public exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMF). ICES has set a guideline of 26.8

kV/m for electric fields and 9,150 mG for magnetic fields. ICNIRP has set a guideline of 36.4 kV/m for electric fields and 12,400 mG for magnetic fields. Appl. 107.

27. The Applicant has calculated the Project electric and magnetic field levels after the Project is placed into service at the edge of the right of way. The Applicant has calculated electric-field levels at average conductor height to range from 0.03 kV/m to 0.91 kV/m. Appl. 105. The Applicant calculated magnetic fields at annual average load (AAL) levels to range from 0.48 to 22.74 mG at the edge of the Project right of way. Appl. 105; Amend. to Appl. at 26.
28. Under all operating conditions, the EMF levels modelled to result from the Project are projected to be well below the exposure levels identified by ICES and ICNIRP. Appl. 106.
29. The Applicant has submitted applications to the NHDOT for aerial utility permits, driveway permits, and a railroad crossing and temporary use agreement. Appl. 16; Appendix 17.
30. Pursuant to RSA 371:17, Licenses for New Poles, utilities must obtain a license from the Commission to “construct a pipeline, cable, or conduit, or a line of poles or towers and wires and fixtures thereon, over, under or across any of the public waters of this state, or over, under or across any of the land owned by this state,” when such facilities are necessary to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public. The Applicant has submitted license applications to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission to cross public waters and state lands. Appl. 16.
31. The FAA, Air National Guard, and the Pease Development Authority reviewed the proposed Project and its location and confirmed that the Project would not have any effects on air traffic; the FAA also issued a Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation. Appl. 57.

Orderly Development of the Region

32. Construction and operation of the overhead portion of the Project will occur entirely within existing distribution and transmission rights-of-way. Appl. 60. Construction and operation of the underground portion of the Project will occur in locally maintained roads, on the former Getchell property in Durham now owned by Eversource, and on private property on the UNH campus area in Durham, and on the Gundalow Landing area, Flynn Pit area, the Darius Frink Farm and the Hannah Lane area in Newington, all areas where the Project has contracted to acquire new easements.
33. The Project will be located in four host communities: Madbury, Durham, Newington, and Portsmouth. Neither Madbury nor Portsmouth have sought to intervene in this docket or submitted any concerns to the Site Evaluation Committee about the Project. Appl. 60.

34. The Applicant has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Town of Newington. The Applicant indicates that it is working with the Town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire to execute MOUs.
35. The Applicant anticipates that it will invest approximately \$84 million in local and State infrastructure improvements with approximately \$19.1 million spent with local and state businesses and labor. Amend. to Appl. 28.

Public Interest

36. The ISO-NE selected the Seacoast Solution, including the Seacoast Reliability Project, as a reliability project in the region to support the reliable delivery of electric power. Appl. 59.
37. The “New Hampshire/Vermont Transmission Solutions Study Report,” published by ISO-NE in 2012, found that the Seacoast Region faces significant violations of the transmission system criteria under certain system operating conditions and, if these criteria violations are not addressed, the Region will likely encounter system overloads that could lead to power outages for numerous customers. Appl. 59.
38. ISO-NE determined in 2011 and 2012 that if no action is taken to address the needs of the Seacoast Region’s electric system, there is the potential that the transmission lines there will exceed their emergency thermal ratings, which could result in degraded voltage. Appl. 59.
39. ISO-NE considered a range of alternatives to increase transmission system thermal capacity, to increase transformer thermal capacity, and to improve system voltage performance. ISO-NE chose the present project as the preferred solution because its ability to solve identified needs and in part because of its cost. The project will provide an additional path to enhance the existing 115 kV transmission system between the Deerfield and Scobie Pond Substations, and will provide 115 kV transmission ties to Maine to better address reliability concerns in the New Hampshire Seacoast region. Appl. E-3.

Respectfully Submitted,

Public Service Company of New
Hampshire

Counsel for the Public

By its attorneys,

McLANE MIDDLETON
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Date: August 15, 2018

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