

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Inter-Department Communication

**DATE: February 28, 2008**

**AT (OFFICE): NHPUC**

**FROM:** Tom Frantz – Director, Electric Division

**SUBJECT:** DE 08-017; Petition by Public Service Company of New Hampshire for a License to Construct and Maintain Electric Lines Over the Piscataquog River in the Town of Weare, New Hampshire

**TO:** Chairman Getz, Commissioners Morrison and Below  
Executive Director Howland

On February 7, 2008, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) filed a petition with the Commission under RSA 371:17 for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over the Piscataquog River in Weare, New Hampshire. PSNH states in its petition that the existing crossing at this location must be replaced with a new 34.5 kV distribution line, designated the 3271 line. The existing 34.5 kV line, the 327 circuit, is an integral part of the PSNH distribution system in the Weare area and without the facility, PSNH claims that reliable electric service in the area cannot be maintained.

PSNH states that the 424 foot crossing structures will be located on property currently under easement to PSNH. PSNH also states that no wetlands permits or other permits are required. PSNH based its minimum clearance requirements on a 100-year flood elevation which exceeds the 10-year requirement of the National Electrical safety Code.

Staff employed the Liberty Consulting Group (Liberty) to review PSNH's petition. On February 12, 2007, Liberty filed an electronic memo of its review of PSNH's petition with Staff. Liberty stated that "PSNH has provided sufficient information and data to justify construction of new electric lines across public waters at this location and that PSNH assures the Commission that the new overhead facilities will be properly constructed, operated, and maintained." Liberty also stated that "If the proposed facilities are constructed, operated, and maintained as proposed in its filing, PSNH will provide safe and reliable service to the public based on sound engineering standards and that construction will be in accordance with the 2007 edition of the National Electrical Code." Liberty further recommended to Staff that it recommend approval of PSNH's petition to the Commission. Based on Staff's review of the filing and the recommendation of Liberty, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the petition of PSNH for a license to construct and maintain electric lines over and across the waters of the Piscataquog River in the Town of Weare.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter.