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August 16, 2019
File No. 04.0190507.66

Michael Behrendt
Durham Town Planner
Town of Durham
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Re: Application for Permitted Use in Wetland Conservation and Shoreland Protection Overlay Districts
Eversource Energy
377 Distribution Line Structure Replacement Project
Durham, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Behrendt:

This letter transmits an Application for Permitted Use in the Wetland Conservation and Shoreland Protection Overlay Districts on behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire doing business as Eversource Energy (Eversource), for the 377 Distribution Line Structure Replacement Project (see attached **Figure 1, Locus Plan**). On behalf of Eversource, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA) is requesting consideration of a permitted use approval for required temporary impacts within the Town of Durham Wetland Conservation and Shoreland Protection Overlay Districts.

The proposed project involves the replacement of seven wooden distribution poles with steel poles located in the Town of Durham. Access to the poles subject to this request was approved by the Town of Durham Planning Board on July 24, 2019 as a Permitted Use as part of an emergency pole replacement in the Town of Durham to replace Distribution Pole #28 within the 377 Distribution Line right-of-way (ROW). Given that Eversource's crews were able to efficiently complete the emergency replacement, Eversource is proposing to also replace the seven utility poles located in Durham between the Lee and Durham town line and Utility Pole #28. This approach will immediately increase the reliability of the line, avoid matting the area again to access the poles in Durham for the foreseeable future, and save on future construction costs (see **Figure 2, Access and Permitting Plans**).

The 377 Distribution Line is located within an existing 100-foot wide utility ROW (see attached Figure 1 – Locus Plan). The proposed work area begins approximately 0.33 miles northeast off Lee Hook Road in Lee at the Lee and Durham Town Line, and continues northeasterly for approximately 0.32 miles where the work area in terminates at 377 Distribution Pole #29.



GZA delineated wetland boundaries within the proposed work area during July 2019 in accordance with the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1," and "Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: North Central and Northeast Region," January 2012. In addition, GZA submitted a Utility Maintenance Notification with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for the proposed work in Durham.

In the Town of Durham, the proposed project requires approximately 10,291 sq. ft. of temporary wetland impact to predominantly palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands located within the existing maintained utility ROW for temporary access through wetlands and spanning stream banks of Follett's Brook and the South Branch of Follett's Brook. GZA and Eversource worked closely to review construction access during the design of the project to minimize impacts in the Wetland Conservation and Shoreland Protection Overlay Districts. Wherever possible, temporary access is proposed using existing access routes to limit temporary disturbance to natural wetland buffers. Timber matting will be used to temporarily cross wetlands and span stream banks in order to minimize and prevent rutting in wetlands. Alternative off-ROW access points were evaluated, and no alternative routes with less wetland impact are available.

In accordance with *Article XIII (175-60.B.4) and XIV (175-71.B.4) of the Durham Zoning Ordinance*, temporary crossings for the maintenance of utility lines or for other utility structures may be permitted in the Wetland Conservation Overlay District and the Shoreland Protection Overlay District if the Town determines the following;

- A. ***Appropriate erosion control measures will be used.*** Impacts were avoided and minimized to the greatest extent practicable by utilizing a currently established timber matting access route through wetlands and to span the banks of Follett's Brook and South Branch of Follett's Brook, which will avoid unnecessary temporary impacts to wetlands where possible which would be caused by the reinstallation of timber matting in the future. In addition, straw wattles will continue to be used in upland areas adjacent to wetlands as necessary. An environmental monitor will conduct periodic inspections on Site during construction to ensure Best Management Practices are being followed in accordance with "Best Management Practices Manual for Utility Maintenance in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies in New Hampshire" (March 2019).
- B. ***Any disturbed area will be restored.*** Upon completion of work, timber matting will be removed from wetlands and wetland vegetation will be allowed to naturally rebound utilizing ample surrounding plant seedbanks. If minor upland grading is needed to facilitate safe movement of equipment, the area will be restored to natural contours upon completion of work.
- C. ***The activity will be conducted in a manner that minimized any impact on the wetland.*** As previously mentioned, impacts were avoided and minimized to the greatest extent practicable by utilizing a currently established timber matting access route through wetlands and to span the banks of Follett's Brook and South Branch of Follett's Brook. The proposed work is within the existing and maintained 377 Distribution Line ROW and will utilize existing access routes to the greatest extent practicable.



Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Very truly yours,

GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lindsey White'.

Lindsey White, Apprentice Wetland Scientist
Assistant Project Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tracy Tar'.

Tracy Tar, CWS, CWB, CESSWI
Consultant/Reviewer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Deborah M. Zarta Gier'.

Deborah M. Zarta Gier, CNRP
Principal

LEW/DMZ/TLT

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Attachments: Permitted Use Application Form
Photo Log
Figure 1 – Locus Plan
Figure 2 – Permitting and Impact Plans

Permitted Use Application Form



TOWN OF DURHAM
8 NEWMARKET RD
DURHAM, NH 03824-2898
603/868-8064
www.ci.durham.nh.us

APPLICATION FOR *PERMITTED USE*
in the Wetland Conservation Overlay District or the Shoreland Protection Overlay district

This form and all required information per Durham's Zoning Ordinance (Article XIII, Section 175-60. B. and/or Article XIV, Section 175-71. B.) must be filed with the Planning Department at least 20 days prior to the meeting of the Planning Board. Note that a meeting with the Conservation Commission to review the criteria is required prior to final Planning Board action. This form is required only where Planning Board approval is required.

Property Location:

Street Address Eversource Distribution Right of Way south of Wiswall Road and east of Lee Hook Road (in Lee)

Tax Map # 17 Lot # Multiple Zoning District Rural

Owner(s):

Name Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy,
Attn: Jeremy Fennell

Mailing Address 13 Legends Drive, Hooksett, NH 03106

Phone 603.634.3396 Email jeremy.fennell@eversource.com

Professional Preparing Plans:

Name of individual and company: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Attn: Tracy Tarr, CWS, CWB, CESSWI

Mailing Address 5 Commerce Park North, Suite 201, Bedford NH 03110

Phone 603.232.8739 Email tracy.tarr@gza.com

Proposed Activity: Seven wooden distribution line structures will be replaced with weathered steel structures of similar size and height on Eversource's 377 Distribution Line. All work will be conducted on Eversource's existing overhead distribution right-of-way.

Please attach a written description and plans of the proposal and address the required criteria.

I certify that all of the information provided is true, to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of professional:  Date 8/13/2019

If I am an agent for the owner, I certify that I am authorized to submit this application.

Signature of owner (or agent):  Date 8/13/2019

Photo Log

PHOTO LOG
377 Distribution Line Structure Replacement Project
Durham, New Hampshire

Photos Taken: July 3, 2019



Photograph No. 1: Looking northeasterly at Wetland DW-1.



Photograph No. 2: Looking northerly at Wetland DW-2.