EVERSOURCE ENERGY

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William J. Quinlan
President, NH Electric Operations

July 10, 2017

Mr. Todd Selig
Durham Town Administrator
Town of Durham
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824

Dear Todd,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the status of our NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) application for the Seacoast Reliability Project (SRP or Project). As you know, we have undertaken additional steps to address concerns and strengthen our study of impacts on Little Bay during the construction process. The updated engineering and study findings further validate our original conclusions that the SRP can be successfully completed without harming what we all recognize as a precious and valued environmental resource.

As part of the review we have revised the engineering of the Project, which has resulted in reduced environmental impacts, and we have gathered additional field data and modeling from our consultants, RPS, GEI and Normandeau since the initial application filed with the SEC in 2016.
The Application update will address the comments sent to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) from Counsel for the Public and the Town of Durham/University of New Hampshire from earlier this year, regarding the SRP Little Bay crossing.

Our June 30, 2017 submittal to the SEC includes:

- **Revised Sediment Dispersion Modeling from Cable Burial for Seacoast Reliability Project, Upper Little Bay, New Hampshire, June 2017-** RPS' revised modeling addresses design refinements and site specific sediment data collected since the previous sediment dispersion study. These include:

  - Reducing channel burial depths from 8 feet to 5 feet
  - Using particle size and percent solids data from site specific samples
  - Reducing time to bury the cable via jet plow from 13 hours to 7 hours
  - Analysis of the effects of tides to address "mean" versus "spring" tide stages
  - Significant reduction in the extent of the sediment plume which supports our original conclusions that the ecological effects of sediment dispersion from the cable installation process are minor and temporary

- **Supplement to Characterization of Sediment Quality along Little Bay Crossing, June 2017-** Additional sediment testing was conducted in May 2017 in response to reviewer comments that pesticides had not been included in the original testing.
    - Pesticides were below detection limits, indicating no further environmental concern
    - There is no evidence of potential contamination at levels of concern in the bottom sediments from pesticides or any other pollutants in the cable area

- **Additional Information-** Supplemental information regarding;
    - Existing cable removal plan
    - Little Bay environmental monitoring plan
    - Salt marsh restoration and monitoring plan
    - Soil and groundwater management and best management practices
    - Response to each comment from the Counsel for the Public and the Town of Durham/UNH

These revised submittals provide additional modeling points and confirm and significantly enhance our confidence in our conclusion that there will be minimal adverse environmental impacts to the bay and the surrounding environment from the cable installation. We remain confident that the proposed underwater crossing will be accomplished safely and effectively without harming the bay and the surrounding environment.

The ongoing rigorous state and federal permitting processes will further refine cable installation methods and requirements for additional avoidance, minimization, and mitigation efforts through best management practices including water quality monitoring. We look forward to discussing the results of the updated sediment and modeling reports at the July 11 technical session (to be held at 49 Donovan Street, Concord) but thought it was important to share the news of our findings with you in advance. Additionally, the June 30, 2017 submittal may be reviewed by the public on the SEC website.

Reference: https://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2015-04/2015-04.htm

We are committed to safe and responsible construction in Little Bay to ensure preservation of this valuable resource, and look forward to continued collaboration with the community and region as we make this important Project a reality.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A Maldonado

William J. Quinlan
President, NH Electric Operations

cc: Eric Fiegenbaum, Madbury Selectmen's Administrative Assistant
Denis Hebert, Newington Planning Board Chairman
John Bohenko, Portsmouth City Manager

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

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News Release

Updated Study Confirms Ecological Safety of Little Bay Crossing for Seacoast Reliability Project

Positive results from additional testing to be focus of upcoming technical session

MANCHESTER, N.H. (July 10, 2017) – Eversource has refined the proposed crossing of Little Bay for the Seacoast Reliability Project to reduce potential environmental impacts. Noteworthy changes in its updated project application include revised engineering, the inclusion of additional field data, and revised modeling of the sediment dispersion resulting from the installation of the cable under Little Bay. The updated results show a significant reduction in the extent of the sediment plume from the cable installation process.

"We remain confident that the proposed underwater crossing will be accomplished safely and effectively without harming the bay and the surrounding environment," said NH President of Electric Operations Bill Quinlan. "The revised modeling completed by our environmental consultant for the project confirms and significantly enhances confidence in our conclusion that there will be minimal adverse environmental impacts to the bay and the surrounding environment from the cable installation."

Additional sediment testing was conducted in May in response to reviewer comments that pesticides had not been included in the original testing. On June 30, Eversource submitted the results of those tests, which indicate the original conclusions remain valid and there is no evidence of potential contamination from pesticides or any other pollutant during the cable installation. An additional NH Site Evaluation Committee technical session on July 11 will provide the opportunity for parties to the permit proceeding to ask questions regarding the updated sediment and modeling reports.

The Seacoast Reliability Project (SRP) is a new 13 mile transmission line connecting substations in Madbury and Portsmouth. The SRP is part of the Seacoast Solution, a suite of projects that is needed to support the reliable delivery of electric power, in order to meet the region's current demand and to support future economic growth.

Eversource has worked extensively with municipalities, property owners, and environmental groups to mitigate impacts to sensitive agricultural and historical areas, as well as to ensure the preservation of Little Bay, and the company remains committed to addressing any additional comments as part of the state's rigorous permitting process.

For more information about the Seacoast Reliability Project, visit eversource.com.

Eversource (NYSE: ES) is New Hampshire's largest electric utility, serving more than 500,000 homes and businesses in 211 cities and towns and is proud to be recognized as the top contributor to United Way in New Hampshire. Recognized as the top U.S. utility for its energy efficiency programs by the sustainability advocacy organization Ceres, Eversource harnesses the commitment of its approximately 8,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and superior customer service. For more information, please visit our website (www.eversource.com) and follow us on Twitter (@eversourceNH) and Facebook (facebook.com/EversourceNH).

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