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www.gza.com



March 23, 2023
File No. 04.0191410.64

Town of Chester
Planning Board
Attn: Brian Sullivan
84 Chester Street
Chester, New Hampshire 03036

Re: Conditional Use Permit Application
Eversource Energy
H141 & R193 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire

Dear Chair Sullivan:

This letter transmits a Conditional Use Permit Application on behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire doing business as Eversource Energy (Eversource), for the H141 and R193 Transmission Line Maintenance Project (see attached **Figure 1, Locus Plan** and **Figure 2, Access and Permitting Plans**). On behalf of Eversource, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA) is requesting consideration of a Conditional Use Permit Application for required impacts within the Wetlands Conservation District. This permit application is subject to the attached Limitations.

The proposed overall project involves the replacement of five existing utility structures (i.e. utility poles) including one along the H141 Transmission Line and four along the R193 Transmission Line in the Town of Chester. The proposed replacement structures are old and worn and must be replaced for the transmission line to continue to function safely and reliably. The proposed structure replacements were selected based on site visit evaluations conducted by Eversource, including pole and equipment conditions, of the H141 and R193 Transmission Lines.

GZA confirmed wetlands in February 2023 in accordance with 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual¹ and using the Routine Determination Method in conjunction with the Regional Supplement² to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. In the Town of Chester, the proposed project requires approximately 4,620 square feet (sq. ft.) of temporary wetland impact to palustrine scrub-shrub and emergent wetlands along with approximately 13,394 sq. ft. of upland matting located within the existing maintained utility ROW for construction access, temporary work pad placement, and structure replacement. Work will be

¹ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Laboratory. 1987. *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*, Technical Report Y-87-1, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2012. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region* (Version 2.0), ed. J.S. Wakeley, R.W. Lichvar, C.V. Noble and J.F. Berkowitz. ERDC/EL TR-12-1. Vicksburg, Mississippi; U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.



conducted in accordance with NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Best Management Practices Manual for Utilities in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies (March 2019). Prior to the placement of timber matting within wetlands, timber mats will be reviewed to ensure cleanliness to prevent the spread of invasive plant species. Upon completion of work, timber matting will be removed, and temporarily impacted wetlands will be stabilized with straw and will be restored using a native herbaceous seed mix. A NHDES wetlands Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) will be submitted for proposed wetland impacts.

In accordance with Article 5.7.6 of the Chester Zoning Ordinance, a Conditional Use Permit may be granted by the Planning Board for the construction of roads and other access ways for pipelines, power lines and other transmission lines provided that the following conditions are found to exist:

- A. ***The proposed construction is essential to the productive uses of land not within the Wetlands Conservation District.*** The project proposes to complete needed maintenance of the H141 and R193 Transmission Lines which is located within an existing and maintained ROW. The proposed utility structure replacement within the Wetland Conservation District is being undertaken to ensure the H141 and R193 Transmission Lines will continue to function safely and reliably. Each utility structure will be replaced in its current alignment and there is no expansion of the existing ROW or installation of new utility lines. The impact to the wetland is temporary and is required for access and work pad placement. It is not anticipated that the proposed project will cause significant effects to the wetland system. As a result, the proposed project is consistent with the purposes of the Wetland Conservation District.
- B. ***Design and construction methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the wetlands and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original gradient condition.*** The proposed impacts to wetlands will be temporary as a result of utilizing temporary matting for access and work pad placement. Permanent impacts are also minimized to the extent practicable based on the location of existing structures and engineering requirements for structure span lengths. Erosion controls will be installed to further minimize and prevent impacts to the surrounding wetland.

Eversource has retained GZA as an environmental monitor to complete regular erosion control inspections during construction and provide guidance to the contractor to maintain compliance with local, State, and federal environmental permits.

Where exposed soil is present, wetland impact areas will be restored using a native seed mix and mulch, as necessary. Siltation controls will be removed when adjacent areas are stabilized.
- C. ***No alternative route, which does not cross a wetland or has less detrimental impact on the wetland is feasible.*** Work is proposed within an existing and maintained utility ROW and proposes replacement of an existing poles. Timber matting will be utilized within the wetland and associated wetland buffer to limit and prevent rutting and maintain a hardened surface between tracked vehicles and wetland vegetation. Therefore, the proposed activity cannot be practicably located elsewhere, and impacts will be minimized to the greatest extent.
- D. ***Economic advantage alone is not the reason for the proposed construction.*** As previously mentioned, work is proposed because the structures are old and worn and must be replaced for the transmission line to continue to function safely and reliably.



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H141 & R193 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project

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Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Very truly yours,

GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Conor Madison'.

Conor Madison, CPESC, CESSWI
Project Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tracy Tarr'.

Tracy Tarr, CWS, CWB, CESSWI
Associate Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Deborah M. Zarta Gier'.

Deborah M. Zarta Gier, CNRP
Consultant/Reviewer

CEM/TLT/DMZ

Attachments: Conditional Use Permit Application Form
Photo Log
List of Abutters
Figure 1 – Locus Plan
Figure 2 – Access and Permitting Plans
Application Fee



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H141 & R193 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project

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Conditional Use Permit Application Form

5.6 - Flood Plain Conservation District (Zone FP) (5/10/2016)

5.6.4 - Conditional Uses

A conditional use permit may be granted by the Planning Board for the construction of roads and other access ways and for pipelines, power lines and other transmission lines provided that all of the following conditions are found to exist:

5.6.4.1 - The proposed construction is essential to the productive use of land not within the Flood Plain Conservation District.

5.6.4.2 - Design and construction methods will be such as to minimize detrimental impact upon the Flood Plain and will include restoration of the site as nearly as possible to its original gradient condition.

5.6.4.3 - No alternative route which does not cross a Flood Plain or has less detrimental impact on the Flood Plain is feasible.

5.6.4.4 - Economic advantage alone is not a reason for the proposed construction.

5.6.4.5 - Prior to the granting of conditional use permit use under this subsection, the applicant may be required to submit a performance security to the Planning Board in a form acceptable to the Board. The security shall be submitted in a form and amount with surety and conditions satisfactory to the Planning Board to ensure that the construction has been carried out in accordance with the approved design. The security shall be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of any permit authorizing construction.

5.6.4.6 - The Planning Board with the concurrence of the Conservation Commission may require the applicant to submit an environmental impact assessment when necessary to evaluate an application made under this part. The cost of this assessment shall be borne by the applicant. The Planning Board may also assess the applicant reasonable fees to cover the cost of other special investigative studies and for the review of documents required by particular applications.

Application for a Conditional Use Permit

Chester Planning Board

(Required if applying to NH DES Wetlands Board)

Map # _____ Lot # see attached

DATE 3/23/23

APPLICANT:

Eversource Energy, Attn: Ashley Friend

ADDRESS:

13 Legends Drive

Hooksett, NH 03106

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 603-634-2992

LOCATION OF PARCEL UNDER CONSIDERATION:

See attached
(Road Name)

- A. Provide in writing and in as much detail as possible, the reason(s) for requesting a "Conditional Use Permit". (Attach a separate document).
- B. Provide the Planning Board with any engineering plans which support the request for a "Conditional Use Permit". (Attach a separate document).
- C. Additional data:

1. Is this request associated with a recent subdivision, site plan or excavation operation?

Yes _____ No x

2. If "Yes", name of the activity

Signature of Applicant  _____



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Photo Log

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 1: View of the unnamed stream within Wetland CW-19 near R193 Structure 354 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.



Photograph No. 2: View of Wetland CW-19 between R193 Structures 354 and 353.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 3: View of Wetland CW-19 between R193 Structures 354 and 353.



Photograph No. 4: View of Wetland CW-19 between R193 Structures 354 and 353.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 5: View of the Exeter River within Wetland CW-19 near R193 Structure 353 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.



Photograph No. 6: View of the Exeter River within Wetland CW-19 near R193 Structure 353 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 7: View of the Exeter River within Wetland CW-19 near R193 Structure 353 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.



Photograph No. 8: View of Wetland CW-19 near R193 Structure 353 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 9: View of Wetland CW-19 near R193 Structure 353 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.



Photograph No. 10: View of Wetland CW-19 near R193 Structure 353 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 11: View of Wetland CW-19 between R193 Structures 353 and 352.



Photograph No. 12: View of Wetland CW-19 between R193 Structures 353 and 352.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 13: View of Wetland CW-20 and proposed access route to R193 Structure 351.



Photograph No. 14: View of Wetland CW-20 and proposed access route and work pad for R193 Structure 351.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 15: View of proposed access route and work pad for R193 Structure 350.



Photograph No. 16: View of Wetland CW-22. There are no proposed impacts to this wetland system.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 17: View of proposed access route and work pad for R193 Structure 349.



Photograph No. 18: View of proposed access route and work pad for R193 Structure 348.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 19: View of Wetland CW-25 near R193 Structure 347, and proposed access to H141 Structure 312.



Photograph No. 20: View of Wetland CW-25 near R193 Structure 347.

PHOTO LOG
Eversource H141 and R193 Transmission Structure Replacement Project
Chester, New Hampshire
Photos Taken: January 20, 2023



Photograph No. 21: View of proposed access for H141 Structure 312.



Photograph No. 22: View of proposed access and work pad for H141 Structure 312.



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H141 & R193 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project

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List of Abutters



H141 & R193 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project
Eversource Energy
Abutters List
Chester, New Hampshire

Wetland Scientist

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
Attn: Tracy Tarr, CWS, CWB, CESSWI
5 Commerce Park North, Suite 201
Bedford, NH 03110

Tax Map 002-082-003

Gary & Mary Ellen Chesney
63 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 003-023-000, 013-010-000-000

Town of Chester
84 Chester Street
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 003-006-001

Kevin & Alexandra Baltimore
66 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 003-021-000

Robert & Miriam Goldsmith
5210 Big Ship
Osage Beach, MO 65065

Tax Map 003-026-001

Kim Kokernak
PO Box 176
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 013-012-003-000

Mark Falkenham Trustee
156 Wells Village Road
Sandown, NH 03079

Tax Map 002-082-001, 003-024-000

Owner/Applicant

Eversource Energy
PO Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141

Tax Map 002-082-004

Joseph & Bailey Hanna
71 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 002-082-002

Lisa & Amber Machon
51 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 003-006-002

Donald A Torrisi
68 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 003-025-001

Henry Ouellette
200 Wells Village Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 005-115-000

Carrie & Matthew Wieland
49A Sandy Beach Road
Salem, NH 03079

Tax Map 003-027-004

Michael & Deborah Frieburger
33 Abenaki Circle
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 002-082-000

Maclean Family Revoc Trust
82 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 002-082-101

Kevin Simpson
31 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 002-087-004

Michael & Jeanne Smith
32 Pulpit Rock Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 003-006-003

Fairwind Properties, Inc
317 South River Road
Bedford NH, 03110

Tax Map 003-026-000

Joseph V Perry
182 Wells Village Road
Chester, NH 03036

Tax Map 013-004-000-000

Town of Sandown
320 Main Street
Sandown, NH 03873



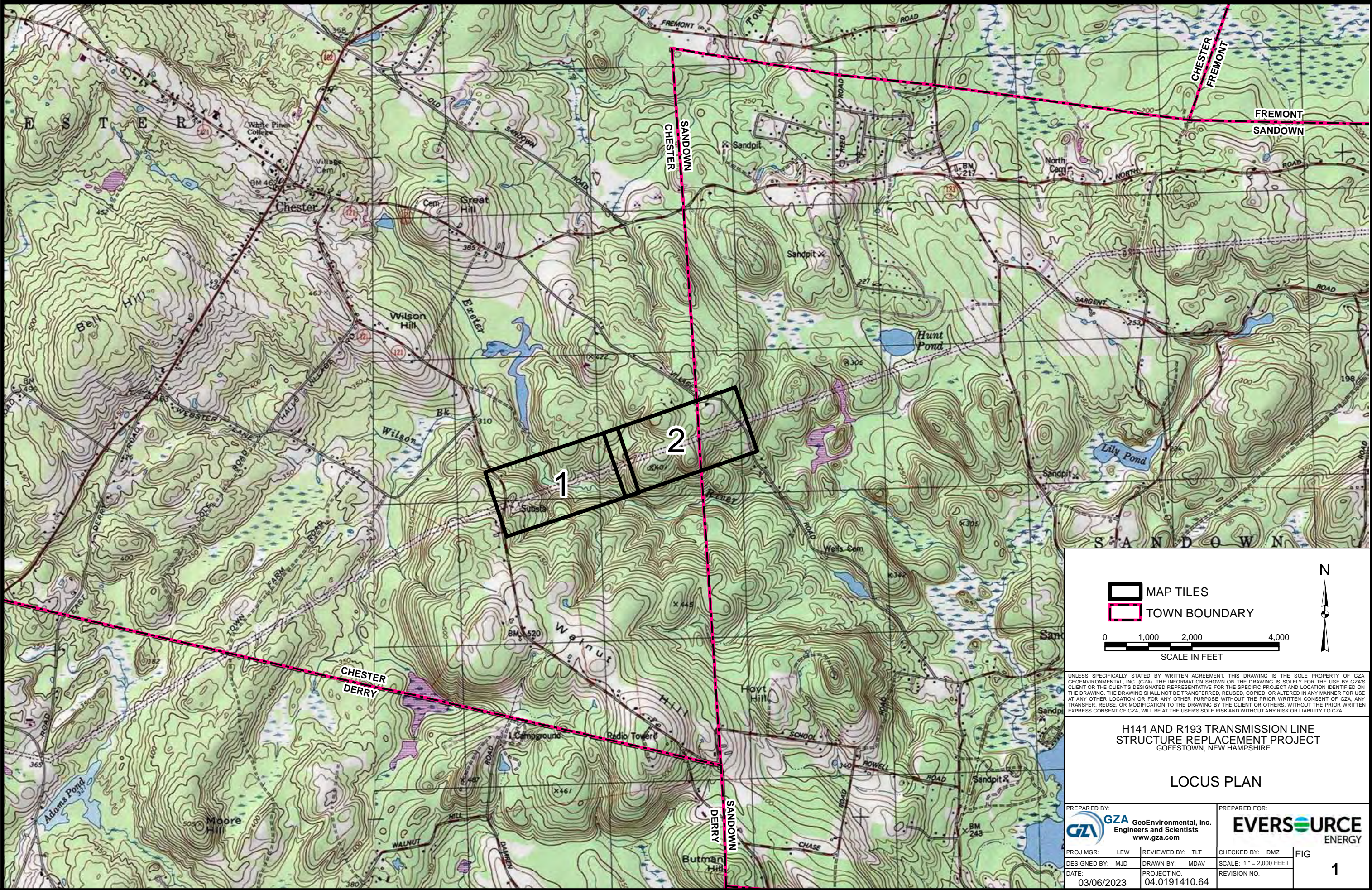
March 23, 2023

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Figure 1 - Locus Plan



MAP TILES

TOWN BOUNDARY

0

1,000

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SCALE IN FEET

N

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H141 AND R193 TRANSMISSION LINE
STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
GOFFSTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOCUS PLAN

PREPARED BY: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Engineers and Scientists www.gza.com		PREPARED FOR: EVERSOURCE ENERGY	
PROJ MGR: LEW	REVIEWED BY: TLT	CHECKED BY: DMZ	FIG 1
DESIGNED BY: MJD	DRAWN BY: MDAV	SCALE: 1" = 2,000 FEET	
DATE: 03/06/2023	PROJECT NO. 04.0191410.64	REVISION NO.	



March 23, 2023

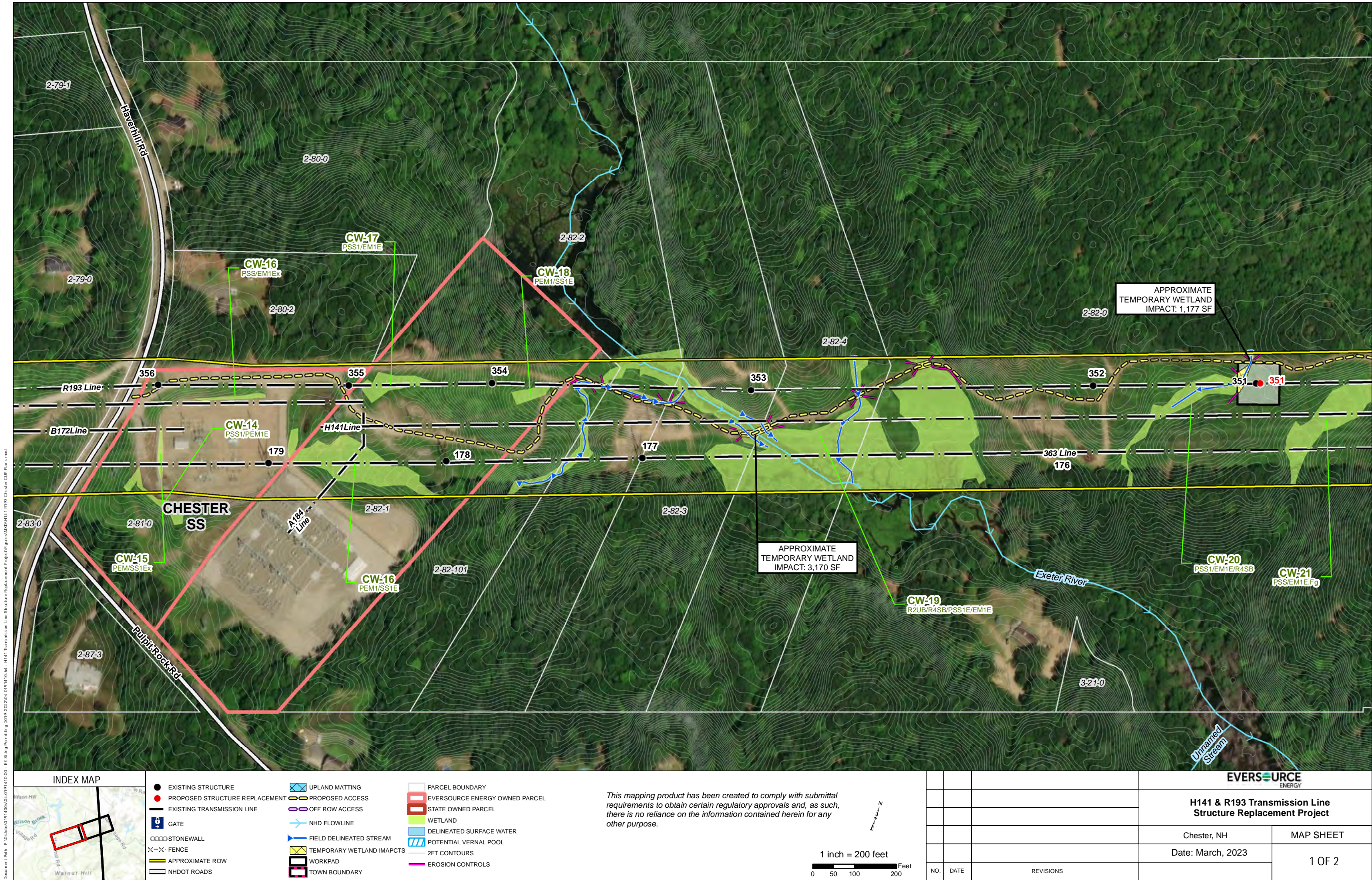
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H141 & R193 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project

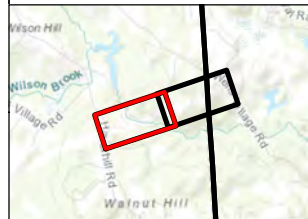
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Figure 2 – Access and Permitting Plans

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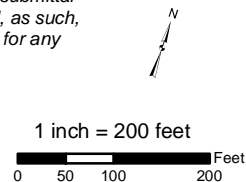


INDEX MAP



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● EXISTING STRUCTURE | UPLAND MATTING | PARCEL BOUNDARY |
| ● PROPOSED STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT | PROPOSED ACCESS | EVERSOURCE ENERGY OWNED PARCEL |
| — EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE | OFF ROW ACCESS | STATE OWNED PARCEL |
| ⊕ GATE | NHD FLOWLINE | WETLAND |
| ○○○○ STONEWALL | FIELD DELINEATED STREAM | DELINEATED SURFACE WATER |
| —X—X— FENCE | TEMPORARY WETLAND IMPACTS | POTENTIAL VERNAL POOL |
| — APPROXIMATE ROW | WORKPAD | 2FT CONTOURS |
| — NHDOT ROADS | TOWN BOUNDARY | EROSION CONTROLS |

This mapping product has been created to comply with submittal requirements to obtain certain regulatory approvals and, as such, there is no reliance on the information contained herein for any other purpose.



EVERSOURCE ENERGY			
H141 & R193 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project			
Chester, NH		MAP SHEET	
Date: March, 2023		1 OF 2	
NO.	DATE	REVISIONS	

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