



January 11, 2021

Ref: 52664.00

Mr. Mark Avery
Madbury Planning Board Chair
Town Offices
13 Town Hall Road
Madbury, NH 03823

Re: Conditional Use Permit, Temporary Wetland Crossing
Eversource ROW Vegetation Establishment Report

Dear Mr. Avery,

On behalf of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (PSNH), VHB is submitting this Vegetation Establishment Report as conditioned under the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) issued by the Town of Madbury Planning Board for utility maintenance dated March 19, 2020. The CUP was issued in accordance with *Article IX, Section 4(C)* of the Town's Land Use Regulations to allow temporary impacts to wetlands and streams and wetland buffers protected under the Wet Areas Conservation Overlay District for utility maintenance.

PSNH replaced six (6) structures along the G128 Transmission Line in the Town of Madbury between March and June before beginning restoration activities. VHB monitored construction and restoration weekly through the end of July and monthly through December. Due to the severe drought, vegetative growth was slow to establish outside of wetland areas which necessitated a longer period of monitoring to ensure that upland areas were stable and resistant to erosion when rainfall increased. Included with this report are photos from the October 9th inspection. This inspection was the final inspection conducted during the growing season.

Timber mat roads were installed in upland and wetland areas from Madbury Road to just beyond G128 Structure 7. As a result, there was minimal impact to jurisdictional areas within the overlay district. Vegetation was quick to re-establish in the majority of this section with the exception of the area immediately adjacent to the gate entrance. The area adjacent to the gate experienced a higher level of disturbance and was restored last during a severe period of drought. Refer to photos 1-15. Photos 2 and 3 show the area near the gate that lacked sufficient vegetation regrowth at the time of the inspection. Photos 1, 4-6, 8-9, and 13-15 depict jurisdictional areas that have re-established. Photos associated with access to and from Structure 6 are non-jurisdictional areas that were slow to re-establish vegetation.

A gravel access road was established to access G128 Structures 8 and 9. There were no temporary wetland impacts associated with these structures. Silt sock was installed as indicated on the approved plan at the base of the slope adjacent to Structure 8 during restoration (Photo 17). See Photos 16 – 20.

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Engineers | Scientists | Planners | Designers



In VHB's opinion, vegetation has sufficiently re-established in all jurisdictional areas with the exception of the upland buffer near the gate entrance. The area near the gate is stable with no risk of erosion to adjacent wetland areas. The upland areas outside of jurisdictional areas have achieved a minimum of 75% vegetative cover and are stable. Therefore, no additional restoration is recommended at this time.

PSNH has planned 2021 maintenance work that will require access within this ROW as early as March. VHB will be filing an application for a CUP to allow temporary wetland impacts for the proposed utility work. Any areas that require additional seeding will be re-evaluated during construction monitoring for the 2021 project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at (603) 391-3951 or strefry@vhb.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherrie Trefry".

Sherrie Trefry, CSS
Director of Energy and Environmental Services




cc: Jeni Menendez, Eversource



Attachments:


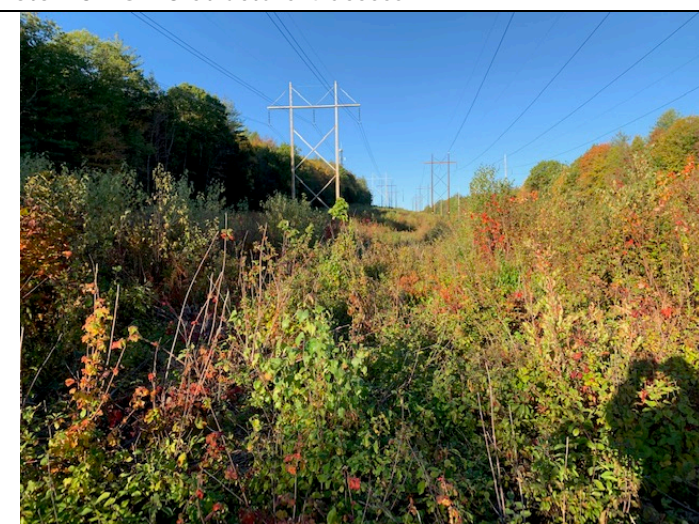
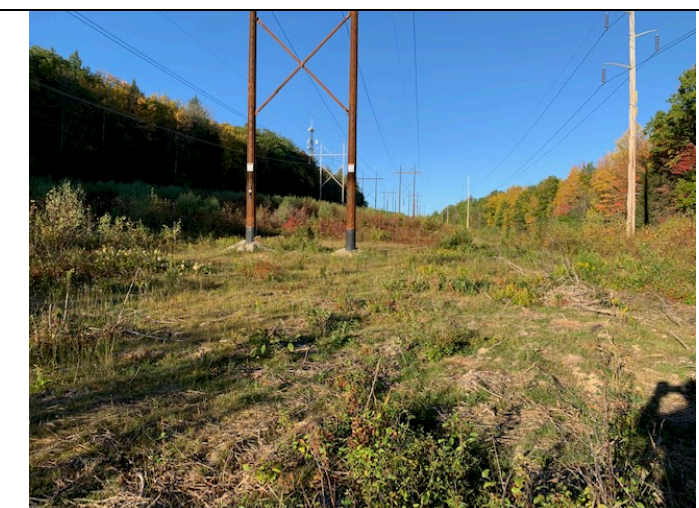
1. Inspection Report Photos dated October 9, 2020




PROJECT: G128 AND 307 TRANSMISSION LINE, 2020 STRUCTURE REPLACEMENTS –MADBURY, NH




INSPECTION DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2020




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| <p>Photo #1: Access to G128 and 307 ROW.</p>  | <p>Location: Madbury Road, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View north at access to the ROW.</p> <p>Area has achieved > 85% vegetative cover.</p> |
| <p>Photo #2: Gate entrance to the ROW.</p>  | <p>Location: Madbury Road, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View west at the access just beyond the gate to the ROW which was ajar at the time of inspection. There is no lock on the gate. Pulled closed.</p> <p>Vegetation has not re-established in this limited area. The ground is hardened and compacted, but stable.</p> |
| <p>Photo #3: Access beyond the gated access.</p>  | <p>Location: Madbury Road, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View west at the access beyond the gated entrance and the restored construction access that has continued to revegetate.</p> <p>Vegetative cover has achieved 85%.</p> |



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| Photo #4: Access beyond the gated access. | Location: Madbury Road, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View west at the purple loosestrife that is present in this area and unrelated to the construction. The loosestrife has now died out for the season. |
| Photo #5: View at access near the stream crossing. | Location: G128 Structure 2, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View west at the access near the stream. Vegetation has re-established where the stream crosses the access. |
| Photo #6: View of the stream that crosses the access. | Location: G128 Structure 2, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View west at the stream crossing. The stream channel was revegetated and dry at the time of the inspection. |

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| Photo #7: G128 Structure 4. | Location: G128 Structure 4, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View northwest at completed G128 Structure 4 replacement. Revegetation of this pad has continued. Vegetative cover has reached 85% cover. |
| Photo #8: G128 Structure 4 access. | Location: G128 Structure 4, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View west at access after timber mat removal. The access road is revegetated. |
| Photo #9: Work Pad at G128 Structure 5. | Location: G128 Structure 5, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View west at completed replacement at Structure 5. Vegetative cover has reached 85% cover. |

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| <p>Photo #10: Access to G128 Structure 6.</p>  | <p>Location: Access to G128 Structure 6, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View west at the access road after water bars were installed, eroded areas regraded, and the area seeded and mulched. Vegetation continues to establish along the access road.</p> <p>The majority of the access has achieved 85% vegetative cover. The picture shows one section of the access that is hardened, compacted and dry. It is likely that additional restoration will be required in this area to re-establish vegetation. However, the access is stable with no signs of erosion at this time.</p> |
| <p>Photo #11: Work pad at G128 Structure 6.</p>  | <p>Location: G128 Structure 6, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View west at the completed replacement at Structure 6. Vegetation is re-establishing, but large areas are still sparsely vegetated as depicted.</p> <p>The area depicted here has achieved 50% vegetative coverage. It is stable with no signs of erosion at this time.</p> |
| <p>Photo #12: G128 Structure 6 access.</p>  | <p>Location: G128 Structure 6, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View west at the restored area where vegetation is re-establishing along the access beyond the Structure 6 work pad.</p> |

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| <p>Photo #13: G128 Structure 7.</p>  | <p>Location: G128 Structure 7, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View west at the access to Structure 7 where vegetation has continued to re-establish.</p> |
| <p>Photo #14: G128 Structure 7.</p>  | <p>Location: G128 Structure 7, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View southwest at work pad at G128 Structure 7. Vegetation has re-established in this work pad.</p> |
| <p>Photo #15: G128 Structure 7.</p>  | <p>Location: G128 Structure 7, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View south at the work pad around Structure 7. Some additional vegetation has re-established along the slope although it is still below 85%.</p> <p>The netting that was put down keeps this area stable.</p> |

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| Photo #16: Access near G128 Structure 7. | Location: G128 Structure 7, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View west at water diversions constructed along the access near Structure 7. The access is stable at this time. |
| Photo #17: G128 Structure 8 work pad. | Location: G128 Structure 8, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View east at a restored work pad around G128 Structure 8. Erosion controls were established at the edge of the slope at the wetland boundary. Slope vegetation has reestablished. |
| Photo #18: G128 Structure 8. | Location: G128 Structure 8, Madbury, NH |
|  | Description: View northwest at replaced G128 Structure 8 and work pad. Vegetation growth around the structures is well-established. The adjacent area that was restored later does not have any vegetative growth. |

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| <p>Photo #19: Access beyond G128 Structure 9.</p>  | <p>Location: G128 Structure 9, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View east at area where anchors were installed for G128 Structure 9. Exposed soils have been seeded and mulched around the anchors. Vegetation has established in this area around the anchors.</p> |
| <p>Photo #20: G128 Structure 9.</p>  | <p>Location: G128 Structure 9, Madbury, NH</p> <p>Description: View northwest at work pads around G128 Structure 9. Exposed soils on non-hardened slopes have been seeded and mulched. Vegetation is established around the structure.</p> |