



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

108 - 10/21/26

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



September 20, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
And The Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to NH RSA 4:40, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to pursue an easement with Eversource to provide full-time power to the NHDES owned Suncook Lake Dam located in Barnstead, NH, upon Governor and Council approval. The easement will be conveyed without any explicit covenants, restrictions, or permissions regarding hunting, fishing, or other recreational activities, and applicable local and state laws will govern such activities.

EXPLANATION

The dam is located at the outlet of the Suncook Lakes along the Suncook River. It is a high hazard dam and failure threatens downstream property and key downstream roads and dams, with flood depths exceeding five feet and arrival times within minutes. Impacts would extend more than 20 miles downstream, affecting Barnstead, Pittsfield, Chichester, and Epsom.

Providing permanent, full-time power at Suncook Lake Dam will directly support safer operation of the dam and reduce risk associated with emergency response actions. The planned 2027 rehabilitation of the dam includes installation of two individually powered gates, which will allow NHDES to more quickly adjust flows during flood events and improve the ability to adjust reservoir levels when needed. Reliable power will also support potential future remote operations, enabling more immediate response during developing hazardous situations.

This request was presented to the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) on December 11, 2025, and voted to Recommend Approval of SLR 2025-009-Barnstead as submitted. This was approved by Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee on June 1, 2026 as LRCP 26-015.

This easement request and deed has been approved by the Attorney General's Office as to form, substance and execution.

We respectfully request your approval.

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

Inter-Department Communication

DATE: _____

FROM: _____

AT (OFFICE) Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General

SUBJECT: Suncook Lake Dam Power Easement

TO: Corey J. Clark, P.E., Chief Engineer
Dam Bureau, Water Division
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the easement deed of and associated easement rights from the State of New Hampshire via its New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to Eversource to provide full-time power to the NHDES owned Suncook Lake Dam located in Barnstead, NH, and the supporting documents provided in completion with the above referenced conveyance and approves the conveyance for form and substance only. Please note that once approved by Governor and Council, and signed by all parties, the deed should be returned to this office for final review of execution before it is recorded in the appropriate county registry of deeds.

SIGNATURE: Keely Lovato - Latham

PRINTED: Keely Lovato - Latham

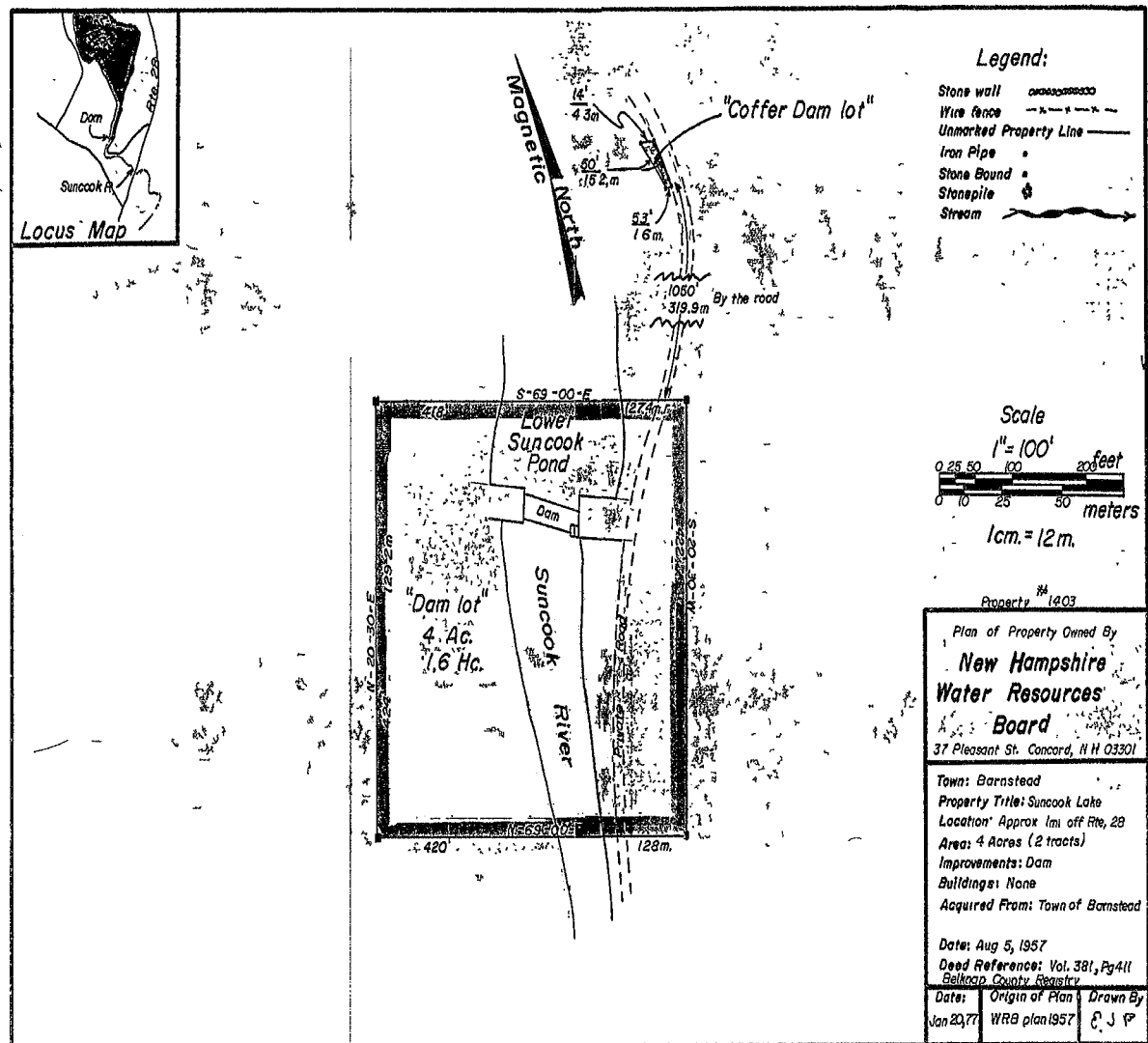
TITLE: Assistant Attorney General

Report
For a
Eversource Power Easement
at
Suncook Lake Dam #014.03
Barnstead, N.H.

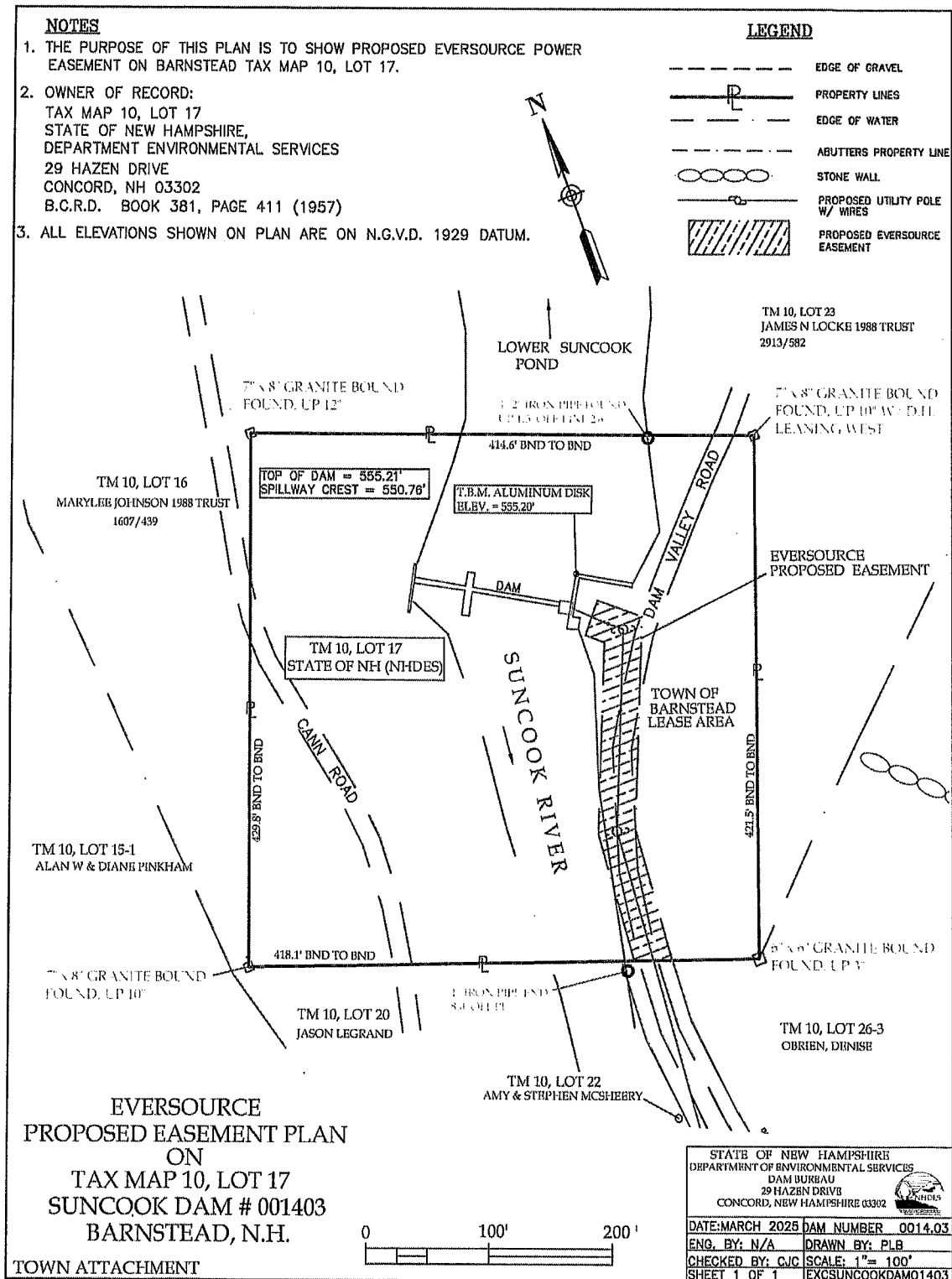


TABLE OF CONTENT:

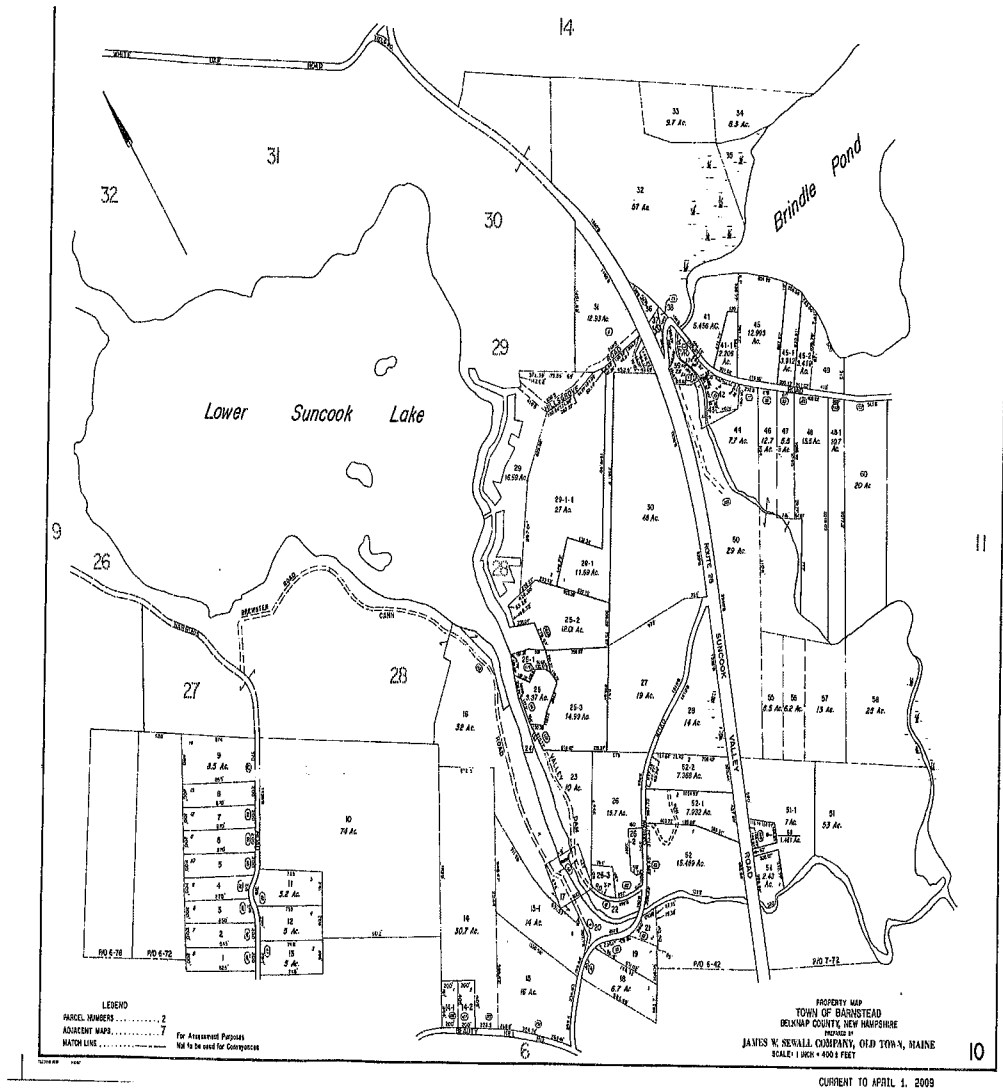
- a. 1977 Suncook Dam Site Plan, page 2.
- b. NHDES Easement Plan, page 3.
- c. Barnstead Tax map, page 4.
- d. Draft Deed, pages 5-6
- e. Photos of dam area, pages 7-10.



1977 Site Plan for Suncook Dam showing State's ownership.



NHDES Proposed Easement Plan



Barnstead Tax Map 10, lot 17

Return to:
Eversource
Attn: Pauline Boire
P.O. Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105

EASEMENT DEED

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that, STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE acting by and through the Department of Environmental Services, having an address of 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord NH 03302-0095, owner of a certain tract or parcel of land located on 83 Valley Dam Road in the Town of Barnstead, County of Belknap, New Hampshire, 03464, under a deed dated September, 1959, recorded in the Belknap County Registry of Deeds at Book 381, Page 411, (herein the "Property"), and, (hereinafter known as "Grantor," which word, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, includes the Grantor's successors and assigns), hereby grants and conveys with quitclaim covenants to the Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), d/b/a Eversource Energy, a corporation established by law, with a mailing address P. O. Box 330 in Manchester, County of Hillsborough, in the State of New Hampshire, 03105 (hereinafter known as "Grantee," which word, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, includes the Grantee's successors and assigns),

The right and easement to lay, install, construct, reconstruct, operate, maintain, repair, replace, patrol and remove aboveground lines which may consist of wires, markers, poles and towers together with foundation, crossarms, braces, anchors, guys, grounds, and other equipment for transmitting electric current and or communication and intelligence, and to do the necessary cutting and trimming trees and brush, over and under and across land owned by the Grantor.

Said easement will be located within the following limits.

This is not a homestead property of the Grantors.

In accordance with RSA 78-B:2, I, this deed is recorded without the payment of New Hampshire Transfer Tax.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Robert R. Scott, has hereunto set their hand this _____ day of _____, 2026.

GRANTOR'S SIGNATURE

Robert R. Scott Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF _____

I, hereby certify that Robert R. Scott personally appeared before me on this ____ day of
, 2026 and acknowledged the foregoing document.

Notary Public/Justice of the Peace [seal]
My Commission Expires: _____

Approved by the Council on Resources and Development by majority vote at a meeting on
December 11, 2025 (NHRSA 4:40).

Approved by the Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee by majority vote at a
meeting on June 1, 2026 (NHRSA 4:40).

Approved by the New Hampshire Governor and Executive Council on, 2026, Item # (NHRSA
4:40).

Approved by the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General as to form, substance and
execution on Date 2026.

Suncook Dam Photos:



Photo 1: Looking Northeast towards dam from downstream. 5/2025



Photo 2: Looking east on Dam Right side: 11/2025



Photo 3: looking east center line of dam spillway 11/2024

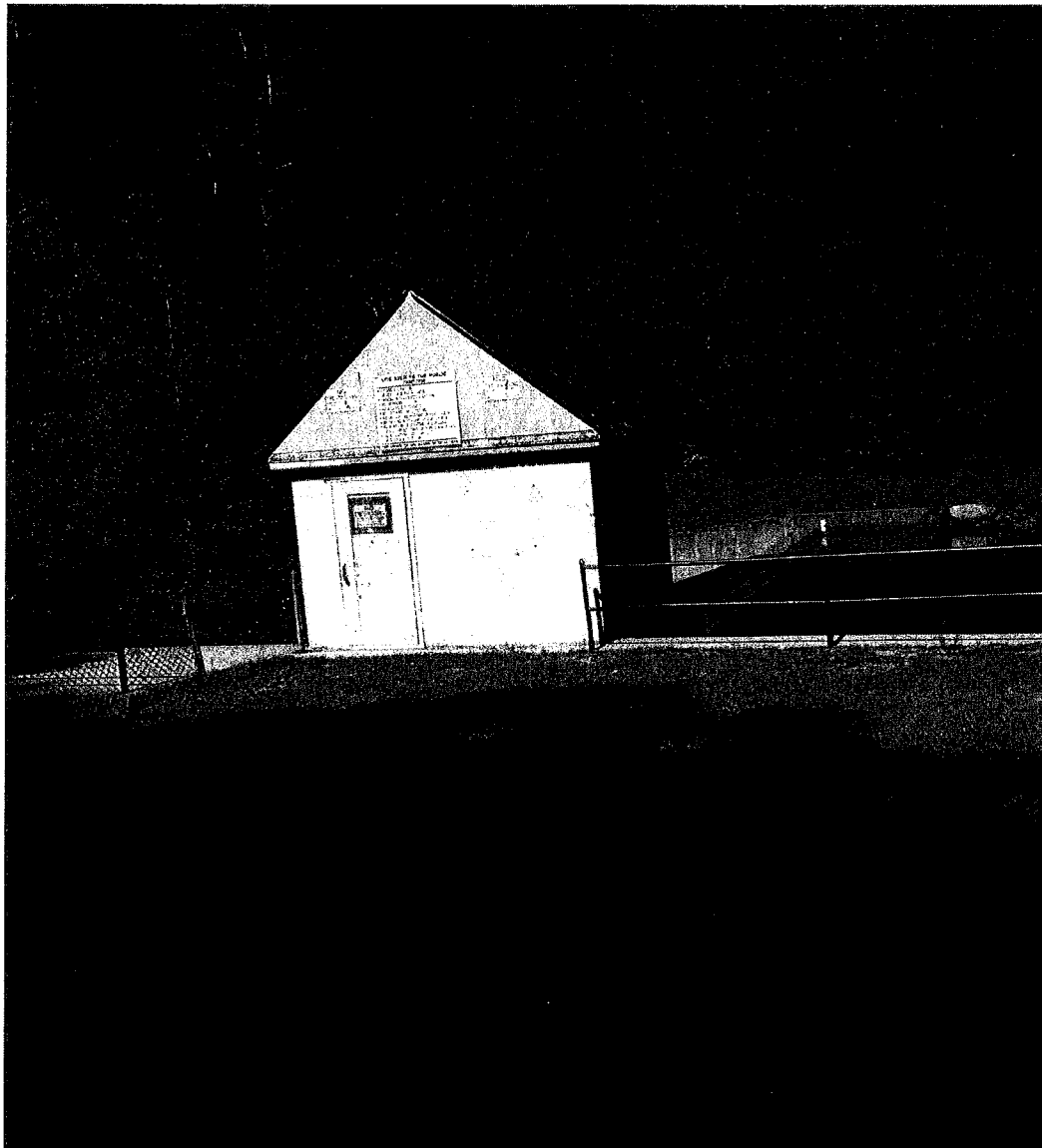


Photo 4: looking west from road towards Gate house of dam 7/2018

Approved by the
Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee
June 1, 2026

LRCP 26-015



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



March 13, 2026

The Honorable David Milz
Chairman, Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization Committee
1 Granite Place, Room 228
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Milz and Members of the Committee:

Requested Action

1. Pursuant to NHRSA 4:40, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to pursue an easement with Eversource to provide full-time power to the NHDES owned Suncook Lake Dam located in Barnstead, NH.
2. Pursuant to NHRSA 4:40(III-a), waive the \$1,100 administrative fee.

Explanation

The Suncook Lake Dam is located within the Suncook River watershed and is a high hazard dam which would threaten downstream lives and property if the dam were to fail. Providing full-time power at Suncook Lake Dam will allow future operations of a stainless-steel gate that is proposed to be installed when the dam is constructed in 2027/2028. Power to the gate will allow safer, more efficient and faster operations of the gate, especially during flood events when Dam Bureau resources are stretched. Permanent power will also allow for the potential of remote operations in the future.

This request was presented to Council on Resources and Development (CORD) December 11, 2025, and voted to Recommend Approval of SLR 2025-009- Barnstead as submitted. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Corey Clark, Chief Engineer of the NHDES Dam Bureau, at 603-271-1961 or corey.j.clark@des.nh.gov

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



New Hampshire Department of
**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**



New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development
NH Office of Planning and Development
100 N Main St., Concord, NH 03301

RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Suzanne Beauchesne, Office of the Commissioner, NH Department of
Environmental Services
Corey Clark, Chief Engineer, NH Department of Environmental Services
Patrick Bell, Land Surveyor/Mapper, NH Department of Environmental Services

FROM: Brendan McDowell, Staff to CORD, Principal Planner
Office of Planning and Development

DATE: December 12, 2025

Reference: Surplus Land Review 2025-009 – Barnstead
The NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) requests CORD review
a surplus property application to pursue an electrical easement with Eversource
to provide full-time power to Suncook Lake Dam in Barnstead, NH.

On December 11, 2025, the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) voted to
recommend approval of the above referenced Surplus Land Review application SLR 2025-
009.

Cc: Heather Shank, Chair of CORD and Director, Division of Planning and
Community Development
Pamela Ellis, Staff to Legislative Long Range Capital Planning and Utilization
Committee

100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

603.271.2341

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