Operations Project Authorization Form

Project Title: Enhanced Tree Removal (ETR) Program	**Project Number: ETR2026**
Date Prepared: 09/22/2025	**Company:** Eversource CT
Organization: Asset Management	**Class(es) of Plant:** Other
Project Initiator: [redacted]	**Project Category:** Annual - General
Project Manager: [redacted]	**Project Type:** Specific
Project Sponsor: [redacted]	**Capital Investment part of original Operating Plan:** Yes
Estimated in service date: 12/31/2026	**Emergency Related Request?** No
Eng./Constr. Resources Budgeted? No	**Facility Type** (check all that apply)**:** ☐ PTF ☐ non-PTF ☐ Distribution
Total Gross Capital Request: 14M	**Authorization Type:** Full Funding

Executive Summary

Briefly describe (in a few sentences) the overall description of the project (do not include technical details)

An authorization of $14,000,000 is requested for the Connecticut Distribution Enhanced Tree Removal (ETR) capital project (id: ETR2026) which is part of Eversource CT's annual distribution vegetation maintenance plan.

The ETR project strategically removes trees to proactively improve system reliability and mitigate long term costs for the distribution cycle trimming programs. [redacted] Additionally, the service area has experienced drought conditions and insect infestations that have negatively impacted tree health and there are signs of increased tree mortality for the coming years.

The CT tree removal program is a Regulatory supported program that targets removals, primarily focused on circuit backbones and large laterals.

Project Costs Summary

See APS3 and APS8 requirements and consult with Plant Accounting for capital/O&M determination. Use published loaders for benefits, materials, and invoices, maintained by the Director, Budget and Internal Reporting.
Note: Dollar values are in thousands
For projects with an O&M component necessary for project completion (eg: training), please note in the appendix what those costs will be and the CCC/business area responsible.

Capital Costs	Year 2026	Year 20__	Year 20__+	Total
Direct Capital Costs				
Internal Labor				$ -
Outside Services	$ 13,580			$ 13,580
Materials				$ -
Removals				$ -
Risk and Contingency				$ -
Other				$ -
Subtotal	$ 13,580	$ -	$ -	$ 13,580
Indirect Capital Costs				
Indirect/Overheads (including benefits)	$ 420			$ 420
Capitalized interest or AFUDC, if any				$ -
Subotal	$ 420	$ -	$ -	$ 420
Total Capital Project Costs	$ 14,000	$ -	$ -	$ 14,000
Costs by Entity				**Total**
Direct Capital	$ 14,000			$ 14,000
Indirect Capital				$ -
Removal net of salvage				$ -
Total Capital Project Costs by Entity	$ 14,000	$ -	$ -	$ 14,000

Technical Justification:

Project Need, Objective and Justification

In Connecticut, trees are the number one cause of outages during storm events. The risk posed by entire trees failing and impacting the conductors is not prevented by trimming alone. Hazardous trees that are dead, declining or structurally unsound are more likely to fail and result in customer outages and damage to infrastructure. Removing risk and hazard trees eliminates the chances of the tree causing an outage.

The ETR program removes trees that have the potential to impact the utility plant thereby extending the life of the plant. The ETR program meets the three tests for capitalization:

- Substantial investment towards asset life extension
- One time program cost as the activity can only be performed once
- Standalone program which will be budgeted, charged and tracked separately

Justification:
The 2026 Vegetation Management distribution program requires expenditures across Connecticut Eversource operating company to address hazardous and risk tree removals. These activities improve the system's ability to survive major storms with less extensive damage. This will improve reliability performance across the service area.

Risk Assessment:
The Company has made commitments to customers and regulators to improve reliability and system resiliency. In the case of CT, there are specific vegetation management program goals for ETR as part of the System Resiliency Program.

- CT PURA 12-01-10 specified risk tree removal and the recapture of Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) clearances on backbones and large laterals.

There are both operational and regulatory risks associated with a failure to approve this program. Operationally, there is an increased risk of more vegetation caused outages, both on normal days and during adverse weather. The Company is required to report on both maintenance costs and volume and risk/hazard tree removals on an annual basis. [redacted]

Project Scope

Eversource arborists will evaluate circuits scheduled for scheduled maintenance in 2026 for hazard trees, with the focus on the backbone and large customer count laterals. The highest emphasis will be placed on prioritizing the first zone of distribution overhead out from the substation and vegetation at the substation itself. Evaluations will take into consideration the condition of risk and hazard trees, proximity to electrical infrastructure and potential customer impact. Eversource arborists will utilize a standardized framework for prioritizing tree risk into categories based on likelihood of failure and potential consequences, with each tree's risk being calculated and stored within [redacted]. The following list of circuit backbones will be patrolled for risk and hazard trees threatening reliability. Arborist patrols will begin in November 2025 to identify ETR work for January 1st 2026.

2026 CIRCUIT
[redacted]



Background

Connecticut is a densely forested state with an aging tree population that has been subjected to numerous stressors over the past decade. Invasive insects such as Emerald Ash Borer, Spongy Moth, Beech Leaf Disease and others have resulted in widespread tree mortality. Environmental factors such as drought have further stressed Connecticut's trees. Dead, declining and trees with defects pose an increased risk to causing an outage during blue sky days and storm events. In addition to hazard trees, risk trees may be identified for removal based on their species, structure, lean and proximity to electrical conductors. Addressing risk and hazard trees along backbone distribution segments is one of the best ways to improve reliability and resiliency for Eversource's customers.

Alternatives Considered:

Were alternative solutions considered/applicable? Include any cost/benefit analysis.

Alternatives were considered (please describe below)

Eversource has delineated the benefits of enhanced tree removal programs to regulatory bodies in CT as an important component of the vegetation management program for both day-to-day reliability improvement and increasing system resiliency for adverse weather events. Additionally, the majority of our customer and community officials have come to appreciate the impact of these programs and expect the company to have robust line clearance efforts. The deferral of this proactive maintenance approach to address only specific instances of insufficient clearance runs counter to the goals of improved reliability and system resiliency.

Regulatory Approvals:

Are Regulatory body approvals needed for the project?
No

If yes, provide detailed regulatory approvals

Project Schedule

Milestone/Phase Name	Estimated Date
Arborist Backbone Surveys begin	November 2025
Project Start	01/01/2026
Assessment of Emergent Tree Issues	On-Going
Project Completion	12/31/26

Risks and Risk Mitigation Plans

List top risks and mitigation plans associated with this project. Include any contingency related to each risk. (Permitting/siting; environmental; outage constraints; customer/community outreach; material delivery; constructability challenges; excavation; etc.)

Future Financial Benefits:

If yes, provide a detailed explanation in the appendix section

No - project is not undertaken for financial benefits

References

Appendices (One-Line Diagrams, Images, etc.)

Reference appendices items in the appropriate section of the PAF and list items in the same order as referenced in the PAF