Date Filed: October 01, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(MS24A-VENDOR-TREE) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1 and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1A-15, pp. 58-59. The Company reported an incremental charge of $4,395 for the Lewis Tree Service Inc. vendor. The charge is supported by a timesheet that references activities from January 8-9, 2024 (prior to the storm event) and separate activities from January 11-12, 2024 (after the storm event) and failed to include an Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location Report. Additionally, the charges include billing for atypical equipment, notably extra chainsaws. Respond to the following:

a. The timesheet supports a larger charge than included within the recovery request. Please identify the specific dates that the Company is attributing to the MS24A event and provide calculations to support the recovery request.
b. Provide the omitted Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location Report detailing the specific storm-related activities performed.
c. Provide documentation (i.e., screen-prints from the Company's Work Management System) demonstrating that the remediation was caused by the MS24A event.
d. Explain why the extra chainsaws were necessary for storm remediation purposes and for the activities referenced in the Report requested in subsection b. As part of the response, provide documentation to support the Company's pre-authorization of the additional chainsaw charges and specifically identify the incremental amount associated with this equipment.

Response:

a. Referring to Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 (CLP-1A-15)(MS24A), pages 58-59, the invoice and corresponding timesheet in question are related to post-storm tree work pertaining to MN24A, January 8-9, 2024, and MS24A, January 11-12, 2024. Upon reviewing the storm cost allocations, the Company identified that only January 8, 2024, was allocated to the MN24A storm event. Please refer to EOE-228, Attachment 1 CONFIDENTIAL, for the original and updated MN24A storm cost allocations and supporting calculations. The cost associated with the work performed on January 11-12, 2024, and allocated to MS24A will be updated to $2,990. The Company will supplement Exhibit ACCT-2 (CLP-01) (MS24A) on page 52 at line 388 to remove $1405.

b. The Eversource Connecticut Emergency restoration Tree Contractor Location document is not available. Work locations were reported on the bottom section of the timesheet.

c. Not all tree-related damage is documented through the Company's Outage Management System ("OMS"). These timesheets were approved by the supervising Company Arborist, who manages tree crew response to address storm damaged vegetation. Examples of storm damaged vegetation include uprooted trees, split trees, broken branches and limbs, and other structural failures that compromise the stability of that tree or tree part. Tree limbs may be hanging directly on the wires, or they may be overhanging and threatening. Not all vegetation contacts during storms cause immediate outages. Storm damage locations are reported through various channels such as customer service calls, tree warden communications and organized patrols. Storm damaged vegetation locations are collected, organized and dispatched by the Company Arborist and are not stored in a centralized location. There is no documentation to provide.

d. There are numerous circumstances where billing for chainsaws during storm restoration is appropriate. The equipment rates to be billed are detailed in contract agreements with the individual tree contractors. A common agreement is that bucket truck crews will have a minimum of two chain saws on the truck included in the cost of the hourly bucket truck rate. For local tree crews working in Connecticut, the requirement is a minimum of two (one-man) gasoline chain saws (one with at least a 14-inch bar length and one with at least a 21-inch bar length). During storm restoration, larger chain saws with a larger bar length may be required to quickly clear large fallen trees. Additionally, climbing tree crews will bill for chainsaws as climbing crew rates do not include chainsaws.