Date Filed: August 07, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(VMP/Removal Decisions) Page 22 identifies two methods that Eversource will use to determine if a tree should be removed; the first is the objective Tree Risk Assessment Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) GIS tool and the second is a subjective risk assessment based on closeness to power lines or size of canopy. Please explain the extent to which the decision to remove a tree under the subjective criteria is based on professional judgment or discretion. If discretion is exercised, identify the individual(s) authorized to make the determination and describe any review or approval process.

Response:

Please refer to Exhibit CLP-VMP-1 at page 20, where components of CL&P's historical Vegetation Management Plan ("VMP") are summarized, including Enhanced Tree Removals ("ETR") and the current process for identifying and prioritizing risk trees for removal within the Tree Risk Assessment Environmental Systems Research Institute ("ESRI") GIS tool. The Company uses the ESRI GIS platform to assist in the capture, catalog, tracking, and monitoring of certain aspects of the VMP including tree removals. The Company does not indicate that there is an objective and subjective component of identifying risk trees, rather that risk trees may be identified for prioritization using multiple criteria, including: dead, declining, or structurally unsound trees including trees impacted by drought, disease, or invasive insects, and trees that are physically too close to the power lines, particularly in relation to backbone lines, or trees where a large portion of the canopy would be removed when trimmed to obtain the clearance. The Company identifies all risk trees based on the professional judgement of CT licensed and trained arborists. The results of the risk assessment enables the Company to prioritize tree removals based on the potential impact to the electric system and available budget.