Date Filed: August 07, 2026

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

Question:

(VMP/Other Considerations) The University of Connecticut study found in Exhibit CLP-VMP-3 notes that urban trees provide important environmental and societal benefits, including reducing urban temperatures, improving air quality, and enhancing community well-being, and that coordination between utilities and municipalities is necessary to balance these benefits with electric reliability objectives.

a. Please describe if and how the Company considered non-reliability factors of an environmental and community nature in developing its VMP.
b. Please describe how the company sees the role of municipalities, property owners, or other stakeholders in those decisions; and
c. Please provide all analyses the Company performs to evaluate the environmental or community impacts of ETT.

Response:

a. The Company does consider non-reliability factors of an environmental and community nature in developing its VMP. The Company has been accredited as a Tree Line USA Utility by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree Line USA program, a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, celebrates forward-thinking utilities that exemplify industry leadership in vegetation management by strengthening reliability, sustainability, and public trust in the communities they serve. This distinction highlights the Company's ongoing commitment to following best practices for quality tree care while ensuring safe, reliable electric service for customers. The Company achieved the Tree Line USA accreditation by meeting the program's five core standards, including: (1) following industry standards for quality tree care, (2) providing annual worker training in best tree care practices, (3) sponsoring a tree planting and public education program, (4) maintaining a tree-based energy conservation program, and (5) participating in an Arbor Day celebration. As part of the Company's commitment to thoughtful vegetation management practices, the Company works year-round to advance educational partnerships with municipalities, students and the public about planting the right tree in the right place and through the Company's educational VMP poster series. In addition, the VMP's tree removal program includes trees that are diseased and pest-infested that, when removed, contribute to forest health.

b. The Company recognizes that municipalities, property owners, and other stakeholders have the responsibility to manage property as they intend, which may include environmental stewardship. The Company follows all required communications with tree wardens, abutting property owners and private property owners as defined in applicable Connecticut General Statutes and PURA orders.

c. The Company has not performed analyses on the environmental or community impacts of ETT.