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Witness: Donald J. Scacco Jr., Christopher E. Colorio, and Mark P. Baldwin
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(STORM) Please refer to Exhibit CLP-STORM-1, p.44, where the Company states, "Eversource crew guides are assigned to external crews and remain with each crew throughout their time working on the system"

a. Does this statement mean that every external line crew has an Eversource employee with them at their job site(s) the entire time they are working?
b. If yes to a, when did this practice begin?
c. If yes to a, do these Eversource employees approve the timesheets submitted by the external crews?
d. For the storms occurring in 2024 and 2025, please provide an unlocked Excel spreadsheet listing the storm, the external crew, the Eversource crew guide assigned to that crew, and the job title of that Eversource employee.

Response:

a. The External Resource Field Coordinators ("ERFC") are assigned to each contingent of contracted line resources associated with a roster. The ERFC coordinates with the Contractor General Foreman to coordinate work priorities and progress across all of the crews within that contingent. The ERFC cannot be on every job simultaneously; however, they are with the contractor contingent for the duration of the restoration and work with the Contractor General Foreman to address priority issues and visit specific job sites as necessary. A single ERFC may be assigned multiple smaller contingents of contracted crews, with a target of 10 crews per ERFC, however that can fluctuate based on how many crews are associated with each contingent, the crew locations, and the operational needs.

   Certain affiliated and regularly utilized external crews work closely with Eversource Operations on an ongoing basis and are highly familiar with Eversource's service territory, system configuration, work practices, policies, procedures, and safety requirements. Many of these affiliated and regularly utilized crews have individuals who are on our Authorized Persons List, and they are authorized to perform switching and tagging operations when circumstances require to make a job site electrically safe for work to be performed. These crews are able to work directly with Operations to receive assignments and direction and are more self-sufficient in navigating the service territory. As a result, continuous accompaniment by an Eversource crew guide is not always necessary for these crews.

During major restoration events, Eversource evaluates crew guide needs and assigns guides where they provide the greatest operational value, particularly for crews that are unfamiliar with the Eversource system or service territory.

Circumstances such as the number of trouble spots during a weather event, the amount of contractor crews the Company was able to procure for the event, and the number of available ERFC's will dictate if a Contractor Crew will be assigned an ERFC or if they will deal directly with the Restoration Management Team ("RMT"). In cases where they deal directly with the RMT, one of the individuals assigned to that RMT will act as their assigned ERFC.

b. The response in subpart (a) has been the operational practice for more than ten years.

c. The assigned ERFC reviews and approves the time that the contractors worked under their supervision. These timesheets and other timesheet submittals like mobilization and demobilization are reviewed through the full timesheet and invoice approval process described in the Company's response to interrogatory EOE-068, in Docket No. 24-03-30, please refer to OCC-394, Attachment 1, for this response from the storm proceeding.

d. Please refer to OCC-394, Attachment 2 CONFIDENTIAL, for ERFC assignment information and job title. Please note that for undeclared events, the Company frequently does not request ERFCs and/or activate the Resource Acquisition team therefore there is not an easily accessible listing of crews with ERFC assignments for those events.