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Witness: David L. Gladey, Jeffrey Richard, Edward A. Davis and Kimberly R. Parsons
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(Poles) Please specify each type of attacher on an Eversource pole (ILEC; competitive telecommunications provider; CATV, CCFA or CVFA holders; wireless; municipalities; and others):

a. Please list all of the entities that are pole attachers on Eversource owned or co-owned poles in Connecticut.
b. Does the pole attachment rate vary by attacher? If so, please explain how it varies and why it varies.
c. Please identify which pole attachment rates/fees are regulated or capped for specific type of attacher, and which pole attachment rates/fees are not regulated for other specific types of attachers.
d. For the entities that attach to Eversource owned or co-owned poles whose pole attachments rates/fees are not regulated, how does Eversource determine the amount of the attachment rate/fee to charge them?
e. How does Eversource determine at what cadence it will bill each attacher?
f. Please list the pole attachment rates by attacher in 2026 as billed by Eversource.

Response:

a. Please refer to OCC-170, Attachment 1.

b. Third-party pole attachment rates only vary by attachment type (i.e., wire-based Telecom, wire-based CATV, wireless). They do not vary by attaching entity. The wire-based Telecom pole attachment rates (Urban and Non-Urban) are both approximately 11% higher than the CATV rate. This difference is almost entirely due to the changes to the usable space in the CATV formula and pole height in the Telecom formula (both rebuttable presumptions) from the default FCC values. NECTA introduced the changes to these inputs in the Company's 2014 rate case (Docket No. 14-05-06) by submitting a pole height survey conducted by Analytic Focus that increased the average usable space from 13.5 feet to 14.57 feet (which reduced the CATV rate by 7.4%) and increased the pole height from 35.7 feet to 38.57 feet (which reduced the Telecom rates by 2.8%).

   Additionally, the Company had proposed conversion factors in its initial filing (69.18% for

Urban Telecom and 45.38% for Non-Urban Telecom) that would have made all wire-based pole attachment rates equal. Not only would this have eliminated the rate differential between the type of attaching entity, it also would have also simplified the Company's tracking and billing. NECTA opposed the Company's proposal and stated that the FCC's Pole Attachment Order methodology "applies cost allocators of 66% in urban areas and 44% in rural areas while CL&P applies higher cost allocators". PURA agreed with NECTA and ordered the Company to implement their changes.

c. The Company's wire-based CATV and Telecom rates and fees are tariffed and subject to PURA approval. Wireless attachment rates have been developed in accordance with rates, terms and conditions, and construction standards as directed by PURA in Docket No. 08-06-19. The resulting rates and terms and conditions are modeled after provisions of service under the Company's wired-based CATV and Telecom pole attachment tariffs.

d. If the question refers to wireless pole attachments, as indicated in the response to part c., wireless attachment rates have been developed pursuant to directives from PURA. Such rates are reflective of the configurations and standards developed for wireless attachments, wire-based pole attachment fees, and the utilization of space by wireless attachments.

e. The billing cadence for annual pole attachment rental fees is established by the applicable PURA-approved tariff. Consistent with that tariff, annual rental fees are billed on a semi-annual basis for the period January 1 through June 30, and July 1 through December 31, with initial billings prorated as applicable. Other pole attachment-related charges (e.g., application fees, survey fees, make-ready charges, and true ups) are billed or collected as they are incurred or become due under the applicable pole attachment process or agreement.

f. Please refer to OCC-170, Attachment 2.