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Witness: Christopher E. Colorio, Mark P. Baldwin, John G. Griffin and Leanne M. Landry
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(MS24A-VENDOR-LINE; WIRE GUARDS) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1 and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1A-16, pp. 214-225. The Company reported four incremental charges in the combined amount of $60,030 for the Maverick Construction Corp vendor for Wire Guards. Respond to the following:

a. Confirm that the wire guards were not utilized for remediation services (i.e., guarding downed wires). If not confirmed, cite the supporting documents demonstrating the actual services that were rendered.
b. Identify the billings attributed to mobilization, demobilization, and standby. If response to subsection (a) identifies actual remediation, please also include the billings attributed to work.
c. Referring to pp. 216, 219, 222, and 225, the Company provided Eversource Contractor Storm Mobilization & Demobilization Time Reports that billed eight hours of mobilization and four hours of demobilization for every vendor employee with a general location reference of "Various locations throughout the northeast, NY, PA, Boston MA". Explain how vendor employees could have mobilized/demobilized from "various locations" but were permitted to bill the same number of hours. Additionally, explain how the Company was able to validate the accuracy of the billed hours given the lack of locations for each billed individual.
d. Provide documentation to support the specific efforts performed by the Company to obtain local wire down guard crews in lieu of those "throughout the northeast".
e. Cite the location of the specific contract and pricing schedule supporting the rates charged for the services (i.e., wire down guards) provided.

Response:

a. Wire Guards procured from Maverick Construction Corp were hired to perform wire guard functions exclusively. Due to the storm not materializing as forecasted, Maverick resources were not deployed to the field. The associated charges were related to mobilization, time awaiting potential deployment and demobilization.

b. All charges are attributed to mobilization, demobilization, and standby.

c. The contractors are hired from a specific hiring location. The agreements pay for mobilization from that location. The individual resources are not paid for their specific locations. For this invoice the contractor mobilized from Boston MA to be staged in CT and traveled during a weather event.

d. Eversource seeks to secure the most commercially competitive suppliers with the closest available qualified wire down guard resources to support storm response activities. The resource acquisition process begins with outreach to available local and regional resources and expands geographically as necessary to satisfy forecasted staffing requirements, with priority given to qualified suppliers under existing agreements. Resource availability is often impacted by the geographic scope of the weather event and competing demand across affected utilities. Accordingly, Eversource attempts to utilize local resources where available and supplements those resources with regional crews when local availability is insufficient to meet operational needs.

   For MS24A, the Company contacted available resources within the region and expanded its requests as necessary to obtain the required staffing levels. Due to storm-related demand and resource availability constraints, regional resources were utilized to supplement locally available wire down guard personnel.

e. The rates charged for the Wire Down Guard services are supported by the Maverick Construction Corp. Agreement for Wires Down Guards for Electric Utility Distribution Emergency Response Program Work, provided in OCC-044, Attachment 2, Page 3982.