Operations Project Authorization Form

Project Title: Reliability Tree Removal (REL) Program	**Project Number: CTREL23**
Date Prepared: 11/16/2022	**Company:** Eversource CT
Organization: Operations Services	**Class(es) of Plant:** D Line
Project Initiator: [redacted]	**Project Category:** Lines - General
Project Manager: [redacted]	**Project Type:** Specific
Project Sponsor: [redacted]	**Capital Investment part of original Operating Plan:** Yes
Estimated in service date: 12/31/23	**Emergency Related Request?** No
Eng./Constr. Resources Budgeted? No	**Facility Type** (check all that apply)**:** ☐ PTF ☐ non-PTF ■ Distribution
Total Gross Capital Request: 14,800,000	**Authorization Type:** Full Funding

Executive Summary

An authorization of $14,800,000 is requested for the Connecticut Distribution Reliability Tree Removal (REL) capital project (id: CTREL23) which is part of Eversource CT's annual distribution vegetation plan.

The REL project focuses removal of trees in poor performing isolating device zones to improve system reliability and resiliency. The data driven selection of circuit segments is based on a weighted evaluation of customers interrupted (CI), customer minutes interrupted (CMI), cost per customer, and customer served at the isolating device level. Tree removals will be performed to obtain full clearance, remove hazard trees and higher risk trees, trees that are not hazardous but more likely to fail (due to species, lean or site conditions).

Project Costs Summary

See APS3 and APS8 requirements and consult with Plant Accounting for capital/O&M determination. Use published loaders for benefits, materials, and invoices, maintained by the Director, Budget and Internal Reporting.
Note: Dollar values are in thousands

Capital Costs	Year 2023	Year 20__	Year 20__+	Total
Direct Capital Costs				
Internal Labor and Construction Equipment				
Outside Services	14,376.56			14,376.56
Materials				
Removals				
Risk and Contingency				
Other				
Subtotal – Direct Costs	14,376.56			14,376.56
Indirect Capital Costs				
Indirect/Overheads (including benefits)	423.44			423.44
Capitalized interest or AFUDC, if any				

Subtotal – Indirect Costs	423.44			423.44
Total Gross Capital Costs	**14,800.00**			**14,800.00**
Customer Contribution				
Total Net Capital Project Costs	**14,800.00**			**14,800.00**

Technical Justification:

The 2023 distribution program requires expenditures across all Eversource operating companies to address maintenance pruning and hazardous tree removals. These activities improve the system's ability to survive major storms with less extensive damage. This will improve reliability performance across the service area.

Alternatives Considered:

Were alternative solutions considered/applicable? Include any cost/benefit analysis.

Project is a compliance obligation with alternatives considered (please describe below)

Eversource has delineated the benefits of enhanced tree removal programs to regulatory bodies in CT as an important component of the vegetation management program for both day-to-day reliability improvement and increasing system resiliency for adverse weather events. Additionally, the majority of our customer and community officials have come to appreciate the impact of these programs and expect the company to have robust line clearance efforts. The deferral of this proactive maintenance approach to address only specific instances of insufficient clearance runs counter to the goals of improved reliability and system resiliency.

Regulatory Approvals:

Are Regulatory body approvals needed for the project?
No

If yes, provide detailed regulatory approvals

Project Schedule

Milestone/Phase Name	Estimated Date
100% Engineering Completion	
Construction Start	
Testing/Commissioning	
In Service Date	12/31/23

Risks and Risk Mitigation Plans

The Company has made commitments to customers and regulators to improve reliability and system resiliency. There are both operational and regulatory risks associated with a failure to approve this program. Operationally, there is an increased risk of more vegetation caused outages, both on normal days and during adverse weather. The Company is required to report on both maintenance costs and volume and risk/hazard tree removals on an annual basis. The Vegetation Management programs also receive intense scrutiny during storm cost recovery hearings and rate case proceedings, creating a regulatory risk for the Company.

References

Appendix 2
Operations Project Authorization Form

Appendices (One-Line Diagrams, Images, etc.)

Reference appendices items in the appropriate section of the PAF and list items in the same order as referenced in the PAF

If the project has future financial benefits, please use the following table to provide the yearly amounts.

Financial Benefits	Year 20__	Year 20__	Year 20__	Year 20__
Capital				
O&M				
Other				
Total Financial Benefits				

Describe the estimated future Capital, O&M and/or Other benefits noted above:

What functional area(s) will these benefits be reflected in?_____

A representative from the respective functional area is required to be included as a project approver.