Appendix 2
Operations Project Authorization Form

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Project Title: CT-DOT Cooperative Tree Removal	**Project Number: DOT24**
Date Prepared: 10/03/2023	**Company:** Eversource CT
Organization: Asset Management	**Class(es) of Plant:** D Line
Project Initiator: [redacted]	**Project Category:** Annual - General
Project Manager: [redacted]	**Project Type:** Specific
Project Sponsor: [redacted]	**Capital Investment part of original Operating Plan:** Yes
Estimated in service date: 12/31/2024	**Emergency Related Request?** No
Eng./Constr. Resources Budgeted? No	**Facility Type** (check all that apply)**:** ☐ PTF ☐ non-PTF x Distribution
Total Gross Capital Request: 3M	**Authorization Type:** Full Funding

Executive Summary

An authorization of $3,000,000 is requested for the Connecticut Distribution CT-DOT Cooperative Tree Removal capital project (id: DOT24) which is part of Eversource CT's annual distribution vegetation plan.

The CT-DOT Cooperative Tree Removal (DOT) project addresses system reliability by providing greater clearances and removing risk trees that are outside the normal maintenance trim zone in coordination with CT-DOT. Tree work is performed with the DOT roadway corridor in conjunction with DOT projects removing trees from both sides of the roadway.

The CT-DOT Cooperative Tree Removal project meets the three tests for capitalization:

- Substantial investment towards asset life extension
- One time program cost as the activity can only be performed once
- Standalone program which will be budgeted, charged and tracked separately

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 2024__	Year 20__	Year 20__+	Total
Direct Capital Costs				
Internal Labor and Construction Equipment				

Outside Services	2,974.63			2,974.63
Materials				
Removals				
Risk and Contingency				
Other				
Subtotal – Direct Costs	2,974.63			2,974.63
Indirect Capital Costs				
Indirect/Overheads (including benefits)	25.37			25.37
Capitalized interest or AFUDC, if any				
Subtotal – Indirect Costs				
Total Gross Capital Costs	**3,000**			**3,000**
Customer Contribution				
Total Net Capital Project Costs				

Technical Justification:

Justification:
The 2024 Vegetation Management distribution program requires expenditures across Connecticut Eversource operating company to address hazardous and risk 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.

Risk Assessment:
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 program pruning cost and volume. The Vegetation Management programs also receive intense scrutiny during storm cost recovery hearings and rate case proceedings, creating a regulatory risk for the Company.

Project Need, Objective and Justification

Project Need Statement

The CT-DOT Cooperative Tree Removal project will reduce tree caused outages for the overhead electric distribution circuits on state roads selected for this project. Trees established within the CT-DOT roadway corridor pose a threat to both public safety and electric reliability during storms. Data from Arborist outage investigations shows that a majority of tree caused outages result from trees failing from outside the trim zone. Targeting risk and hazard tree removals both within and outside the trim zone, including an evaluation of both sides of the road, will improve system resiliency during extreme weather events.

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Project Objective

The objective is to partner with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to address trees and vegetation along state roadways with the mutually beneficial goal of improving public safety for motorists and providing reliability and resiliency benefits to Eversource's customers.

Project Scope

Connecticut Vegetation Management Arborists work together with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to identify state roads with heavy tree density and/or hazardous trees that could benefit from the tree removal project. The entire project segment must contain overhead primary. Potential state roads for collaboration are prioritized based on the circuit reliability data, potential customer impacts and the level of tree exposure to the overhead conductors.

An initial list of areas where tree removals will be mutually beneficial has already been approved by Eversource and DOT for the start of 2024. Additional segments will be identified throughout the year based on reliability data and tree condition.

State Routes for 2024 CT DOT Collaboration Work

1. Rt. 81 Killingworth to Haddam
2. Rt. 195 UConn Area up through Rt. 44 Eastford
3. Rt.12 Lisbon from I395 to Norwich
4. Rt. 197 Thompson-Woodstock from Rt. 131 to Rt. 169
5. Rt. 66 East Hampton-Portland from Rt 151 to Rt. 17
6. Rt. 184 Groton-Stonington from I95 Rt. 216

Background

The Connecticut DOT and Eversource Vegetation Management utilize some of the same line clearance contractors to perform tree work across public rights-of-way. Working together to remove risk and hazard trees within the DOT roadway corridors that contain overhead circuits maximizes tree contractor efficiency. Collaborating on tree removals within mutually agreed upon areas creates benefits for both Eversource customers and Connecticut motorists by reducing the risk of tree failures during normal and inclement weather.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternatives were considered (please describe below)

Eversource also performs a standalone tree removal program both on scheduled maintenance circuits and poor performing devices. This project provides cost savings by doing the work cooperatively with CT-DOT. Cost sharing is based on the volume of work adjacent to roadside primary lines and work on opposite side of the road.

Regulatory Approvals:

No

Project Schedule

Milestone/Phase Name	Estimated Date
Work scope identified with CT-DOT	10/25/2023
Project Start	01/01/2024
Arborist Review	On-going
Project Completion	12/31/24

Risks and Risk Mitigation Plans

Risk includes customer or community reaction to work being performed resulting in negative opinion of Eversource. This risk is mitigated by CT-DOT personnel and the contractor performing the work performing outreach with stakeholders with support from Eversource Arborists.

References

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:

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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.