Operations Project Authorization Form

Project Title: CT-DOT Cooperative Tree Removal	**Project Number: DOT25**
Date Prepared: 11/11/2024	**Company:** Eversource CT
Organization: Asset Management	**Class(es) of Plant:** Other
Project Initiator: [redacted]	**Project Category:** Annual - General
Project Manager: [redacted]	**Project Type:** Annual
Project Sponsor: [redacted]	**Capital Investment part of original Operating Plan:** Yes
Estimated in service date: 12/31/2025	**Emergency Related Request?** No
Eng./Constr. Resources Budgeted? Choose an item	**Facility Type** (check all that apply)**:** ☐ PTF ☐ non-PTF ☐ Distribution
Total Gross Capital Request: 3M	**Authorization Type:** Full Funding

Executive Summary

Briefly describe (in a few sentences) the overall description of the project (do not include technical details)

An authorization of $3,000,000 is requested for the Connecticut Distribution CT-DOT Cooperative Tree Removal capital project (id: DOT25) 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
For projects with an O&M component necessary for project completion (eg: training), please note in the appendix what those costs will be and the CCC/business area responsible.

Capital Costs	Year 20__	Year 20__	Year 20__+	Total
Direct Capital Costs				
Internal Labor	-			$ -
Outside Services	2,975			$ 2,975
Materials				$ -
Removals				$ -
Risk and Contingency				$ -
Other				$ -
Subtotal	$ 2,975	$ -	$ -	$ 2,975
Indirect Capital Costs				
Indirect/Overheads (including benefits)	25			$ 25
Capitalized interest or AFUDC, if any				$ -
Subtotal	$ 25	$ -	$ -	$ 25
Total Capital Project Costs	**$ 3,000**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,000**

Costs by Entity				Total
Direct Capital	3,000			$ 3,000
Indirect Capital				$ -
Removal net of salvage				$ -
Total Capital Project Costs by Entity	**$ 3,000**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 3,000**

Technical Justification:

Project Need, Objective and Justification

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.

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 state roads where tree removals will be mutually beneficial to both parties is currently being evaluated by Eversource and CT DOT. Additional segments will be identified throughout the year based on reliability data and tree condition.

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.

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:

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

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:

Are Regulatory body approvals needed for the project?
No

If yes, provide detailed regulatory approvals

Project Schedule

Milestone/Phase Name	Estimated Date
Work scope identified with CT-DOT	12/15/2024
Project Start	01/01/2025
Arborist Review	On-going
Project Completion	12/31/25

Risks and Risk Mitigation Plans

List top risks and mitigation plans associated with this project. Include any contingency related to each risk. (Permitting/siting; environmental; outage constraints; customer/community outreach; material delivery; constructability challenges; excavation; etc.)

Future Financial Benefits:

If yes, provide a detailed explanation in the appendix section

No - project is not undertaken for financial benefits

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