Appendix 2
Operations Project Authorization Form

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Project Title: ETT Customer Focused 2024	**Project Number: ETTCF24**
Date Prepared: 10/03/2023	**Company:** Eversource CT
Organization: Asset Management	**Class(es) of Plant:** Other
Project Initiator: [redacted]	**Project Category:** Annual - General
Project Manager: [redacted]	**Project Type:** Specific
Project Sponsor: [redacted]	**Capital Investment part of original Operating Plan:** Choose an item
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 ☐ Distribution
Total Gross Capital Request: 5.5M	**Authorization Type:** Full Funding

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

An authorization of $5,500,000 is requested for the Connecticut Distribution Customer Focused Enhanced Tree Trimming capital project (id: ETTCF24) which is part of Eversource CT's annual distribution vegetation plan.

The Customer Focus Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) project addresses system reliability by providing greater clearances and removing risk limbs and trees that are outside the normal maintenance trim zone in areas of emergent reliability concerns.

The Customer Focus ETT program 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	670.65			670.65

Outside Services	4060.45			4060.45
Materials				
Removals				
Risk and Contingency				
Other				
Subtotal – Direct Costs	4731.1			4731.1
Indirect Capital Costs				
Indirect/Overheads (including benefits)	768.9			768.9
Capitalized interest or AFUDC, if any				
Subtotal – Indirect Costs				
Total Gross Capital Costs	**768.9**			**768.9**
Customer Contribution				
Total Net Capital Project Costs	**5,500**			**5,500**

Technical Justification:

Justification:
The 2024 Vegetation Management distribution program requires expenditures across Connecticut Eversource operating company to address encroachment of branches, plus 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

The Customer Focus ETT project achieves a greater vegetation clearance compared to maintenance trimming by seeking 10 feet of tree and branch clearance from the outermost conductor from ground to sky. By removing all overhanging tree limbs and trees within the 10 feet clearance zone, the risk of both limb failure and whole tree failure impacting the conductors is reduced. This project is key for addressing emergent reliability concerns throughout the year.

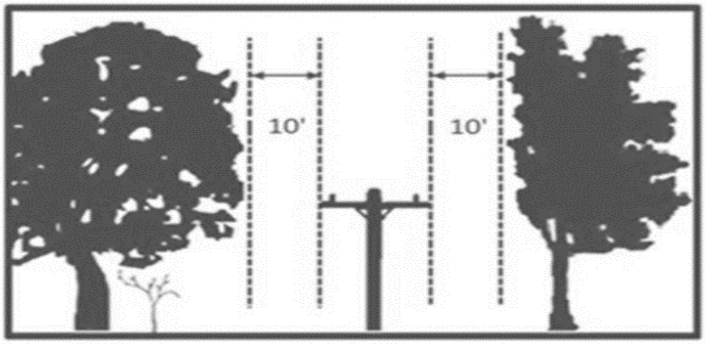
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Project Objective

The Customer Focus ETT project targets emergent, high-priority circuit segments with the goal of establishing additional vegetation clearance to improve electric reliability and resiliency for Eversource customers.

Project Scope

Customer Focus ETT segments are selected based on historic reliability, potential customer impact, and arborist's knowledge of local hazard tree populations. Selection of Customer Focus ETT segments will be primarily focused on 2024 scheduled circuits to maximize contractor efficiency. Additionally, the Customer Focus ETT project may be used to address emergent reliability concerns, including "3 or more" circuit segments that have experienced three or more outages within a 90-day period. The 2024 Customer Focus ETT segments will be identified on a rolling basis to allow for the timely inclusion of new priority segments throughout the year.



Clearance Specifications for Customer Focus ETT

1.1.1.1. Overhead Clearances
Prune and remove all limbs in the clearance zone over the outermost primary.

1.1.1.2. Side Clearances
10-feet side clearance shall be measured horizontally outward from the outermost primaries.

1.1.1.3. Under Clearances
Prune and remove all limbs in the clearance zone under the outermost primary.

1.1.1.4. Brush and Vine Clearances
Remove all brush that is capable of growing tall enough to touch the primary conductors that are in or growing into the clearance zone. All vines which are growing up poles or guy wires shall be cut at the ground line and cleared 6-feet up the pole or guy.

Background

For areas of concern, the Customer Focus ETT project improves service for the impacted customers by establishing a greater vegetation clearance through trimming and tree removal. In addition to keeping vegetation clear from direct contact with the conductors, the Customer Focus ETT specification targets both partial tree failure (limbs and branches) and whole tree failure (entire trees uprooting, snapping, cracking). Removing the vegetation overhang reduces the risk of tree limb or branch failure overhead impacting the electrical conductors, especially during wind, snow, and ice weather events. Removing trees within the 10 feet ETT zone reduces the risk of whole tree failure and eliminates the need for those trees to be trimmed in future cycle years. With future maintenance trimming and brush control, the established clearance will require less effort to be maintained. Establishing the Customer Focus Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) specification will improve electric service for customers during normal weather and extreme weather events.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternatives were considered (please describe below)
Eversource performs scheduled maintenance and tree removals through other capital tree removal programs. The benefit of the Customer Focus ETT project is that it allows for both tree removals and tree trimming together within the same project to establish full ground to sky clearance. The Customer Focus ETT project allows the department to address circuit segments that are not scheduled for the current year and address emergent tree reliability concerns in a timely manner and achieve a greater clearance than maintenance trimming.

Regulatory Approvals:

No

Project Schedule

Milestone/Phase Name	Estimated Date
Work Scope	
Project Start	01/01/2024
Arborist Review	On-going
Project Completion	12/31/24

Risks and Risk Mitigation Plans

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

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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.