Date Filed: September 23, 2026

Witness: David L. Gladey and Steven Lamontagne
Request from: New England Connectivity and Telecommunications Association

Question:

(Pole Management & SPA) Refer to Exhibit CLP-ADDITIONS-1 at p. 64 ("Replacements are based on annual inspections"). Provide the following:

a. Describe the Company's annual inspection process, including the number of poles inspected each year, the data collected during the inspection, the criteria used to determine the integrity of the pole, who performs the inspections, and how the information collected during the inspections is used.
b. Provide all data collected during the most recent annual inspection.

Response:

a. The Company performs its routine and annual pole inspection to its custodial wooden poles following a 15-year inspection cycle which ended in 2025. This cycle ensured that every custodial pole across 157 towns in Connecticut was inspected at least once within the time frame. Approximately 29,000 to 32,000 poles were inspected using the 15-year cycle.

   In 2025, the Company reviewed its wood-pole inspection standards and decided to shorten the inspection cycle from 15 years to 10 years. By adopting a more frequent inspection schedule, the Company aims to evaluate each custodial pole every 10 years, allowing issues to be identified earlier and addressing them more proactively. Under the revised 10-year cycle, approximately 41,000 to 42,500 poles will be inspected starting in 2026 and moving forward.

   The inspection process is based on the age of the pole. A visual inspection is completed for poles with less than 20 years of service. For poles with more than 20 years in service the inspection will include a visual, sound and bore, resistograph testing also known as IML testing, and the application of preservatives "treatment" required to maintain the structural integrity of the pole, and ensure continuous serviceability until the subsequent inspection interval.

   The number of poles replaced each year due to age, structural deterioration, damage, or end-of-life conditions varies based on the number of rejected poles identified through the annual pole inspection program. Poles classified as "Rejects" cannot remain in service

because their remaining strength has fallen below 67% of their original strength or because they exhibit structural or mechanical damage that compromises safe operation. These poles are scheduled for replacement within one year of identification.

Poles classified as "Priority Rejects" represent the most critical conditions and cannot remain in service because their remaining strength has fallen below 25% of their original strength and/or they exhibit severe structural or mechanical deterioration that presents an immediate public safety risk and reliability. Priority Reject poles are made safe within 48 hours of identification and are replaced as soon as practicable.

Poles classified as "Leaning" are poles that are susceptible to failure and may pose risks to public safety and electric system reliability. Leaning poles occur when soil disturbances, loading from pole attachments, or other external forces alter the pole's original alignment. These conditions are commonly caused by soil saturation and moisture accumulation, excessive structural loading, vehicle impacts, severe weather, or storm-related damage. Depending on the severity of the condition, findings from the pole inspection process are communicated to the Company on a daily, weekly, or immediate basis to ensure appropriate corrective actions are taken.

Currently, GeoForce Utility Technologies is the contractor responsible for performing all pole inspections throughout Connecticut during the 2024-2026 period. The selection of pole inspection contractors follows a competitive bidding process, with the successful bidder typically awarded a three-year inspection cycle contract.

b. Please refer to NECTA-009[i] for the data collected during the most recent pole inspection.

Prior Referenced Response:

[i] NECTA-009 Question:

(Pole Data) Regarding the last field inventory of Company distribution poles conducted by or on behalf of the Company, provide a complete copy of the results of the field inventory, including:

a. The date the field inventory was conducted;
b. The universe of poles surveyed;
c. The percentage of total poles;
d. The type of information collected about each pole;
e. The height of each surveyed pole;
f. The average height of all surveyed poles;
g. Age of each pole;
h. The number of attachments, other than Eversource facilities, on each pole.

NECTA-009 Response:

The Company is providing a copy of the results of its 2025 pole inspection program. The field inventory includes inspection results for approximately 32,894 custodial poles located across 9 of Connecticut's 157 towns, based on a 15-year inspection cycle. Effectively in 2026, the Company transitioned to a 10-year inspection cycle to evaluate each pole every 10 years, allowing issues to be identified earlier and addressing them more proactively. The Company expects to evaluate 40,000 to 42,000 poles, or 10% of its custodial wooden pole population.

a. Please refer to NECTA-009, Attachment 1, tab named "Results", showing the dates that the inventory was conducted. Usually, the Pole inspection process starts in mid-April and ends towards the end of October.

b. In 2025, the Company inspected 32,894 custodial poles

c. In 2025, the Company inspected 7.8% of the Company's wooden pole population based on a 15 year-inspection cycle.

d. Please refer to NECTA-009, Attachment 1, tab named "results" showing all the information collected from each pole inspected in 2025.

e. Please refer to NECTA-009, Attachment 2, for the height and age of each pole inspected in 2025. The height is shown in column "u", and the age of each pole is shown in column "T "of each town where custodial poles were inspected.

f. Please refer to NECTA-009, Attachment 2, tab "2025 Pole Inspection General Information", showing the average height for all custodial poles inspected in 2025. The average height is 37.7 ft.

g. Please refer to subpart (e), above.

h. Please refer to NECTA-008, Attachment 1, for the number of attachments on each custodial pole. NECTA-008 Attachment 1 will be provided on September 30, 2026, due to an extension being requested. The Company does not collect attachment information during the pole inspection process.