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Witness: David L. Gladey, Steven Lamontagne, Leanne M. Landry and Jeffrey D. Turano
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(Poles) Please provide the actual costs incurred by Eversource for the years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 for the following:

a. Pole inspections;
b. Pole replacement due to age/end of life;
c. Electric wire and facilities transfers to new poles;
d. Pole replacement due to damages unrelated to storms, such as motor vehicle accidents;
e. Structural reinforcements for provision of electric service;
f. Pole maintenance (please specify what kinds of maintenance were conducted and the costs associated with each type of maintenance);
g. Transfer or removal of unused wires in the communication space.

Response:

a. During the period from 2021 to 2025, the Company has inspected approximately 29,000 to 32,000 custodial wooden utility poles per year following a 15-year inspection cycle. This cycle ensures that every custodial pole across the 157 towns in Connecticut is evaluated at least once within the timeframe. The inspection costs are determined by several factors, including the pole's age, its observed condition during the field inspection, and the type and extent of treatment "maintenance" required to maintain the structural integrity and ensure continued serviceability until the subsequent inspection interval.

   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.

   To manage the pole inspection costs, the Company renegotiates its inspection contract every three years through a competitive bidding process. The most recent review was completed in 2024, and the results show that the Company successfully reduced costs compared to the previous contract.

Table 1. Inspection Costs by Year

Year	Inspection Cost
2021	$1,678,411
2022	$2,195,343
2023	$1,806,931
2024	$1,387,007
2025	$1,532,816

b. Please refer to Table 2 for the cost incurred by replacing custodial wooden poles per year from 2021 thru 2025 as a result of age / end of life.

The number of poles replaced each year due to age and end of life varies based on the number of reject poles identified during the annual inspection process each year. Poles classified as "rejects" are replaced and cannot remain in service because their remaining original strength has fallen below 67% or they exhibit severe mechanical damage that prevents safe continued operations.

Table 2. Pole Replacement Cost due to Age/End of Life

Year	Cost of Pole Replacement due to age/end of life
2021	$6,570,014
2022	$4,983,053
2023	$7,611,460
2024	$3,391455
2025	$8,840,424

c. Please refer to Table 3 for the cost incurred by transferring Eversource's electric facilities onto Frontier poles from 2021 to 2025.

Please note that from 2021 to 2024, Frontier adopted a policy of reinforcing reject poles rather than replacing them. This strategy led to fewer electric-wire facility transfer onto Frontier poles and contributed to reduced expenditures. As noted above, a reject pole is classified as a decayed structure whose remaining original strength is below 67%, rendering unsuitable for continued safe operations.

In 2025, the Company noticed an increase in electric facilities transfers indicating a change in strategy from Frontier. Now Frontier is replacing most of its reject poles.

Table 3. ES Electric Transfer to New Poles Cost

Year	ES Electric Transfer to New Poles
2021	$177,871
2022	$261,777
2023	$142,117
2024	$544,229
2025	$2,051,521

d. Please refer to Table 4 for the replacement of poles by Eversource due to damages unrelated to storms, including motor vehicles

Table 4. Pole Replacements due to Damages Unrelated to Storms

Type of Pole	2021-2025 Costs	Number of Poles
Custodial Eversource Poles	$19,860,444	3,473
Telephone Company	$11,662,945	3,367
Eversource Decorative Light Pole	$1,071,439	200

e. The Company has not completed any pole reinforcements from 2021 to 2025.

f. Please refer to OCC-146, Attachment 1 CONFIDENTIAL, showing the following requested information:
   1- Specific kinds of maintenance
   2- Associated cost per maintenance

g. The Company does not complete any transfers in the communication space/gain.