Date Filed: September 24, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(Storm MN25K – Tree Crews) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 (CLP-13A-8) (MN25K). The following pertains to invoices from Distinctive Gardens & Tree Care LLC (p. 31-52):

a. Per review of the vendor contract provided as part of OCC-044, Attachment 2 CONFIDENTIAL p. 1000-1127, the contract indicates different rates for 2025 than those applied on the invoices. Provide context on whether any additional factors or considerations were applied in calculation of the rates.
b. The hours charged per invoices did not align to the hours recorded per the Tree Crew Time Sheet reports. Was the differential attributable to standby time or another non-work function? Were the time sheets completely properly by the crew/vendor? How did the Company validate the work performed by these crews and the hours charged?

Response:

a. The Distinctive Gardens and Tree Care LLC crews that supported this Connecticut storm response had been working under the transmission vegetation management program in Connecticut. The rates match the contracted transmission rates for this vendor for 2025. Please refer to OCC-641, Attachment 1.

b. Yes, time sheets were completed properly by the vendor. The Tree Crew Time Sheet was used in lieu of the Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location form as these were transmission system tree crews. Similar to outsource tree crews, they are not required to use the distribution specific Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location form. The billable hours are the ones listed on the Eversource Connecticut Weekly Operations Report which is the timesheet. The Eversource Arborist supervising these crews confirmed the timesheet information was correct when they signed the timesheet.