Date Filed: September 30, 2026

Witness: Christopher E. Colorio, Mark P. Baldwin, John G. Griffin and Leanne M. Landry
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(MS24A-VENDOR-LINE-TRAVEL) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1, and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1A-17, pp. 329-391. The Company reported an incremental charge of $273,731 for the SM Electric Group Inc vendor. The charge applied to travel (i.e., mobilization and demobilization) and standby activities. Respond to the following:

a. Referring to pp. 331-332, explain why the vendor was permitted to bill for 11 hours of mobilization (travel) when the estimated travel between Rahway NJ and Rocky Hill CT is less than 3 hours or 4 hours after applying the 1.3 factor. To the extent that the billable hours are attributed to something other than travel, cite the contract provisions that permit the vendor to bill for the referenced activity and explain why it was classified as travel. As part of the response, please provide emails or other correspondence obtained during the initial review to support the hours billed.
b. Referring to p. 333, explain why the vendor was permitted to bill for 5 hours of demobilization (travel) when the estimated travel between Rocky Hill CT and Rahway NJ is less than 3 hours or 4 hours after applying the 1.3 factor. To the extent that the billable hours are attributed to something other than travel, cite the contract provisions that permit the vendor to bill for the referenced activity. As part of the response, please provide emails or other correspondence obtained during the initial review to support the hours billed.
c. Referring to OCC-044, Att. 2 (Confidential), p. 6138-6152, confirm that the vendor's Exhibit A Pricing Schedule contains the Company's standard provisions, including "Standby Rates apply to labor resources only" (i.e., p. 6144). If confirmed, identify the total amount of equipment that was billed during standby activities. If not confirmed, cite the revised Exhibit A Pricing Schedule that was executed (signed) for 2024 and 2025 that excludes the standard provisions.

Response:

a. Although travel time may be reviewed based on google map distances and application of the 1.3X multiplier, this does not take into account any potential weather, road hazards, vehicle issues or other potential delays that can affect travel time in reality. The guideline is in place to provide a reference point and real travel time is a function of real-time circumstances. Additionally, once mobilized, the time interval must encompass time to conduct safety briefs, lodging arrangements, meals and other appropriate activities that are

included in the mob time. As noted on the time sheet at page 331, the 11 hours included "Shape up at shop, onboard/safety train new hires, prepare fleet, tooling fleet, tailboard, travel, safety training of Eversource videos." Eversource made adjustments to the new contract and now specifically calls out those activities under the new rate structure.

b. When this invoice was reviewed, the Company utilized google maps and the distance reference point of x1.3 to derive the total hours for travel to be 5.25 hours. Since the crew charged only for 5 hours, it was acceptable to the Company. The Company has googled this same route again to respond to this question and it produces the same exact hours of travel. Therefore, these travel hours are reasonable.

c. Yes. Eversource confirms that the vendor's Exhibit A Pricing Schedule contains the Company's standard provisions, including the provision that "Standby Rates apply to labor resources only," as referenced in OCC-044, Att. 2 (Confidential), p. 6144.

The provision that "Standby Rates apply to labor resources only" should not be interpreted to mean that equipment cannot be billed during periods when crews are awaiting assignment or direction. Rather, the provision establishes that a contractual Standby Rate applies only to labor resources and does not create a separate standby rate for equipment. Those equipment rates are charged during all hours that the equipment resources are made available to or are utilized to support the company. Please refer to the Company's response to EOE-267, for more context and detail regarding the billing of equipment.

The same standard provisions apply to the Exhibit A Pricing Schedule incorporated into the vendor's contract for the applicable work. The total amount of equipment charges associated with periods identified as "standby" on the contractor's timesheets was $4,273.95.