Date Filed: September 28, 2026

Witness: Donald J. Scacco Jr., Christopher E. Colorio, Mark P. Baldwin, John G. Griffin, Leanne M. Landry and Jeffrey D. Turano
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(STORM – DRONE USAGE) Refer to Response to EOE-033. Respond to the following:

a. Explain why the Company incurred more than a 5x increase in drone expenses for the test year (i.e., 2025) compared to all prior years.
b. Discuss if the increased drone expenses have resulted in a decrease in c. staffing levels within the Company's Event Level Matrix (ELM).
c. Provide evidence of the Company's competitive bid results for the drone services provided by the Creative Surveying vendor. If the vendor did not provide the most favorable competitive bid results, explain why the vendor incurred over 90% of the drone costs for the test year. Additionally, identify the incremental difference in drone spending for the Creative Surveying vendor compared to the lowest cost option resulting from the competitive bid process.

Response:

Please refer to EOE-033-SP01[i].

Regarding part c, the original response to EOE-033 incorrectly showed that Creative Surveying provided drone services in the test year.

Prior Referenced Response:

[i] EOE-033-SP01 Question:

(STORM – DRONE USAGE) Discuss the Company's use of drones in support of storm remediation efforts. As part of the response, identify when the Company first started using drones, explain the nature of these services as performed by either internal or external parties, and explain how these costs have impacted (i.e., reduced) other offsetting costs (i.e., patrols). Finally, provide a detailed listing of drone expenses by year (2018 through present), identify any drone-related capital additions (i.e., drone purchases), and identify where in the Company's application those costs are included.

EOE-033-SP01 Response:
Original submission included chart with inaccurate costs. Please reference this chart along with verbiage below.

Expenses	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Internal Labor			19,605	10,082	18,588	54,771	50,157	29,704	7,556	190,463
Creative Surveying	-	-	18,084	29,709	-	-	-			47,792
Pinnaclx	-	-	5,366	1,950	13,099	11,872	11,259	5,943	12,993	62,482
VHB		-	-	-	3,209	-	-	-	-	3,209
Skyscape	-	-	-	-	15,847	6,924	28,827	-	-	51,598
Total Expenses	**-**	**-**	**43,054**	**41,741**	**50,744**	**73,567**	**90,243**	**35,647**	**20,549**	**355,545**

Original Response:

Eversource has utilized drones for storm restoration support of electric distribution assets since 2019 when the Company hired drone contractors. In 2020, the Company created our internal drone team and since then, the Company has utilized both contracted and internal resources for storm support. The Company's drone teams aid in storm restoration efficiency by quickly delivering detailed images of aerial assets to a decision maker and identifying potential issues not typically seen from the ground, or in areas that cannot be traversed due to environmental factors. This in turn reduces costs by increasing reliability and reducing outages for our customers.

Refer to the charts below for a listing of expenses and capital additions by year. The expenses in the test year were recorded to storm workorders and are therefore either deferred for future recovery ($293,774) or included in Exhibit CLP-REVEQ-2-A,B,C,D, Schedule C-3.28 (Storms: Non-Catastrophic / Pre-Staging Incremental Storm Expenses) ($153,000). The assets are purchased by the Service Company and those capital costs are billed to the Company as operating expenses though (1) EESCO Capital Return (Exhibit CLP-REVREQ-2-A,B,C,D, Schedule C-3.11) and (2) EESCO Depreciation expense (Exhibit CLP-REVREQ-2-A,B,C,D, Schedule C-3.35).