Date Filed: September 25, 2026

Witness: John P. Dipaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding, Jenna M. Turner, John G. Griffin and Leanne M. Landry
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(MS24A-VENDOR-TREE) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1 and Confidential Exhibits ACCT-2 CLP-1A-15 through CLP-1A-16, Rows 373-376, 393. The Company reported various incremental charges for the Lewis Tree Service Inc vendor. Each of the invoices included billing for extra chainsaws. Identify if the extra chainsaws were pre-authorized by the Eversource arborist and identify the total incremental amounts. If pre-authorization occurred, please provide documentation, along with explanations for why the extra equipment was necessary.

Response:

It is an established practice for contractor tree crews to bill for larger chainsaws during storm restoration activities. The use of larger-bar chainsaws when removing large-diameter trees improves operational efficiency and enhances worker safety by allowing the work to be performed quicker and with less risk to the operator. The chainsaws billed on the referenced invoices are larger than the standard chainsaws provided on each bucket truck, consistent with the applicable contract provisions. Because tree crews cannot determine the size and removal requirements of a tree until they arrive at the work location, requiring a separate trip to obtain a larger chainsaw could delay restoration efforts and result in additional travel costs.

Accordingly, billing for a larger chainsaw is permitted for the entire shift when utilized, as that equipment resource is dedicated to the assigned crew and is therefore unavailable for use on other work during that period. The associated chainsaw charges were reviewed and approved by the Eversource Arborist through the timesheet approval process, confirming that use of the equipment was appropriate for the work performed.