Date Filed: August 13, 2026

Witness: David L. Gladey, Jeffrey Richard, Edward A. Davis and Kimberly R. Parsons
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(Poles) In preparing its application and materials for Docket No. 26-05-10, please state whether Eversource took into consideration the Authority's Decision in Docket No. 24-10-04, Application of the United Illuminating Company to Amend Its Rate Schedule, which found that the communications attachments provided the same or similar services and thus should not be subject to different pole attachment fees based on the communications legacy characterization of the communications provider.

Response:

Eversource reviewed PURA's Decision in United Illuminating's rate case (Docket No. 24-10-04) with respect to the calculation of pole attachment rates. However, the Company focused primarily on its own development of pole attachment fees and on how PURA has ruled in regard to its prior pole attachment filings. In reviewing and comparing the arc of attachment rate development between the two companies, Eversource observed significant differences in the history and evolution unique to Eversource that has led to current methods of rate making at Eversource. In comparison, Eversource observed in its review that certain aspects of UI's pole attachment rate calculations appear to either deviate from FCC precedent that Eversource applies or are simply different from how PURA has directed Eversource to perform its calculations.

Eversource had previously proposed (in its 2014 rate case) to adjust the Telecom formula so that the rates produced by Eversource's CATV and Telecom calculations would be exactly equal, however, NECTA opposed the Company's proposal and PURA ultimately ruled in NECTA's favor. Eversource was ordered to follow the FCC Telecom formula methodology exactly, which meant that there would be a rate differential between the CATV and Telecom rates.

Eversource's approach considers this unique ratemaking history for the current methodology applied and is consistent with PURA's directives to Eversource, but Eversource is not opposed to using the FCC Telecom formula to calculate the rates for all wire-based third-party pole attachments in its service territory. If directed to do so, Eversource could update its pole attachment revenue accordingly to reflect this change.