Date Filed: August 13, 2026

Witness: David L. Gladey and Jeffrey Richard
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(Poles) In its role as SPA, please explain any areas of dispute that currently exist between Eversource and the communications providers with respect to cost-allocation and other shared costs or expenses concerning pole maintenance, facilities transfers, upgrades or updates to the Alden One software system?

Response:

From the perspective of the Single Pole Administrator ("SPA"), disputes regarding cost allocation are generally limited and typically involve differing interpretations of responsibility for certain costs associated with the third-party attachment process, rather than disputes regarding the overall administration of the SPA framework. For example, one area where communications providers have expressed differing views involves the allocation of certain make-ready costs, including engineering estimates and subsequent true-up billings. These matters generally arise from differing interpretations regarding cost responsibility for work associated with specific attachment projects and are addressed through the established billing review and dispute resolution processes.

Communications providers have also expressed differing views regarding the allocations of costs associated with enhancements and upgrades to the Alden One software platform used to administer the SPA process. Specifically, certain providers have questioned whether they should bear a portion of the costs associated with enhancements and upgrades to a system that is required for participation in the SPA process. Eversource's recovery of these costs is governed by the applicable PURA orders.

Other than the matters described above, Eversource is not aware of any significant ongoing SPA related disputes with communications providers concerning the allocation of shared costs or expenses associated with pole maintenance, facility transfers, or updates to the Alden One software system.