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Witness: David L. Gladey, Lavelle Freeman, John P. Dipaola-Tromba, Jennifer A. Schilling and Elli Ntakou
Request from: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Question:

Refer to Exhibit CLP-TSP-1 p. 32. Please provide additional information regarding the specific electrical system limitations that the Canadian Company required. Please explain what upgrades were needed and the costs associated with the necessary upgrades?

Response:

The testimony cited in the question was intended to illustrate the challenges associated with serving very large new load requests in portions of eastern Connecticut and was not intended to imply that the Company had completed a detailed engineering assessment or developed a formal estimate of the upgrades and costs required to serve the project. Rather, the testimony reflected a preliminary assessment that the Company's existing infrastructure could not support the customer's requested load within the customer's required timeframe.

The prospective customer was evaluating a manufacturing facility with anticipated electrical demand of a magnitude that would ultimately exceed the capabilities of the existing local distribution system and likely require a dedicated bulk power supply solution. Based on preliminary discussions, the Company determined that sufficient capacity could not be provided within the customer's required timeframe and that available substation headroom in the area was insufficient to support a practical phased-service approach for initial operations pending development of longer-term infrastructure. Given those constraints, the customer did not pursue the proposed development further, and the project did not progress to a stage at which the Company would perform a detailed engineering analysis or develop a formal estimate of the required upgrades and associated costs.

The limitations identified during these preliminary discussions were driven by broader distribution system characteristics in portions of eastern Connecticut, where the electric grid serves a largely rural geography. In many areas, substations are widely spaced, circuit lengths are long, and existing infrastructure was designed to support historically lower levels of customer demand. As a result, available electrical capacity can be limited, particularly in locations experiencing significant commercial and industrial growth.

In recent years, the magnitude of individual load requests has increased substantially compared to historic levels. This trend is being driven by factors such as the expansion of manufacturing

facilities, growth in large-scale warehouse and distribution centers, deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, increased adoption of electric heating technologies such as heat pumps, and greater use of automated and robotic industrial processes. These projects often require significantly larger electrical service capacities than traditional commercial developments.

When new load requests exceed the available capacity of the local distribution system, upgrades may be required to maintain system reliability, voltage performance, and compliance with planning and operating criteria. Depending on the location and magnitude of the requested load, necessary upgrades can include distribution feeder reinforcements, conductor replacements, installation of voltage support equipment, substation transformer upgrades, expansion of existing substations, or construction of new distribution infrastructure.

The specific upgrades required and the associated costs are highly dependent on the location of the proposed load, the amount of available capacity on the existing system, and the overall magnitude of the requested demand. Consequently, upgrade costs can vary significantly from project to project, ranging from relatively modest distribution modifications to substantial investments in substation and feeder infrastructure where existing system capacity is insufficient to accommodate the requested load.

For the specific project under discussion, preliminary assessments indicated that serving the customer's full long-term load would require significant infrastructure development beyond the capabilities of the existing local distribution system. In addition, available substation capacity in the area was insufficient to support a practical phased-service approach that could accommodate the customer's interim operational needs while longer-term infrastructure solutions were planned and constructed. As a result, the Company's assessment was that it could not support the customer's anticipated load within the customer's required timeframe.

Eversource remains willing to work with project developers to evaluate potential service solutions as projects advance. Should the developer elect to proceed with a high-level engineering study, Eversource will continue to assess infrastructure requirements, available service alternatives, project phasing opportunities, and associated costs needed to reliably accommodate the proposed development.