Date Filed: October 09, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

Vegetation Management. Refer to CLP-VMP-1, page 25.

a. Update the table to contain actual date for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and forecasted data for 2026, 2027, 2028 and the Rate Year.
b. Explain why capitalized and expensed vegetation management costs have declined from 2023-2025.

Response:

a. Please refer to OCC-887, Attachment 1, for an updated table including years 2015-2017 and forecasted years 2026-2028.

b. The capital and expense vegetation management costs in years 2023-2024 are in line with and, in some cases, higher than previous years (e.g. vegetation management expense in 2023-2024 compared to 2018-2020). For 2025, please refer to the Company's response to OCC-840[i].

Prior Referenced Response:

[i] OCC-840 Question:

O&M expenses. Refer to the response to OCC-375(f) Explain in detail what the "optimization of O&M" throughout Connecticut Operations" refers to.

OCC-840 Response:

The Company goes through a rigorous budget process each year and works to balance the needs of all organizations to ensure it provides safe and reliable service to customers. During the course of the year, the Company balances the financial needs across the organization and, in some cases, spending may be adjusted up or down during the year as circumstances warrant. For 2025, the vegetation management spending was reduced from prior years, while still aligned with the amount included in distribution rates.

As noted in the joint direct testimony of John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding, and Jenna Turner, the Company is entering into a new four-year cycle subject to the results of a competitive solicitation that the Company is currently conducting. The Company's estimation is that the cost of the Vegetation Management Plan will increase above the level last included in base rates in 2018, because of unavoidable increases in vendor costs over the historical time

interval, as well as to accommodate the trim cycle for all overhead circuits, implement new programs, including LiDAR, and other programs, including Mid-Cycle. Please refer to OCC-102i, for the drivers of the proposed increases from the Test Year to the proposed budget in the Rate Year.