Date Filed: October 06, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(MS24F-VENDOR-TREE) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-6, and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-6A-4, pp. 193-194. The Company reported an incremental charge of $11,903 for the Distinctive Gardens & Tree Care LLC vendor. Respond to the following:

a. Cite the applicable contract and pricing schedule, inclusive of the provision that permits the Per Diem charge.
b. Identify if the vendor had access to Company provided meals on April 4, 2024, at the Torrington AWC. If the vendor had access to meals, explain why they were permitted to bill a Per Diem charge.
c. Provide the omitted Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location report and explain if the crew performed remediation activities or were held on standby.
d. Explain why the vendor was permitted to bill for two mini excavators. As part of the response, provide documentation demonstrating the Company's prior approval of this equipment.
e. Referring to p. 194, explain why the vendor was permitted to only bill for 6 hours at an ST rate when they commenced billing at 9AM, resulting in 7.5 hours at an ST rate. (i.e., response to EOE-128) As part of the response, please identify the incremental impact of vendor's billing for 6 hours at an ST rate versus 7.5 hours at an ST rate.

Response:

a. Please refer to OCC-044, Attachment 2 CONFIDENTIAL, page 1039, for the contract language that permits the per diem charge.

b. The vendor was staged at the area work center ("AWC") and would have appropriately had access to available food. However, meals at the AWC do not always cover all personnel present at the location. Tree crews may be actively working on event restoration activities when meals are provided at the AWC. The time required to break down the tree crew's worksite and return to the AWC for a meal would not benefit customers or decrease restoration time when utilizing a meal per diem would be more efficient.

c. The Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location reports may have been missed during the scanning process. The Company is working on locating the

report and will supplement this response as appropriate. However, the Company Arborist reviewed and approved the vendor timesheet as a result of their direct supervision and knowledge of the tree crews working each shift during the restoration process. The Company verifies storm-related work using additional records, including timesheets, dispatch information, and field oversight, and does not rely solely on the Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location reports for validation purposes.

d. During storm response, mini excavators may be used to remove large trunk sections and other woody debris from roadways, when necessary. Mini excavators can improve restoration efficiency. Large-diameter trunk sections that would otherwise require significant time for ground crews to cut, move, and stage manually can often be shifted in minutes, allowing roads to be reopened faster and restoration resources to be deployed to additional outage locations.

   The Company authorized the use of these services through its storm restoration contractor as part of the overall restoration effort. Because the work was performed to facilitate blocked-road clearing and the safe restoration of electric service, the associated costs were appropriately incurred by the Company as storm remediation expense.

e. The vendor is not permitted to charge overtime during the storm working hours, from 07:00 to 16:00. Referring to Exhibit ACCT-2 (CLP-6) (MS24F), page 52, line 162, and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 (CLP-6A-4) (MS24F), pages 193-194, the Company reviewed the Distinctive Gardens & Tree Care LLC invoice and determined that one-hour of straight-time was billed at the overtime rate for a total incremental cost of $213.75. The Company will supplement Exhibit ACCT-2 (CLP-6A-4) (MS24F), page 52, line 162, to remove $214.