Date Filed: September 23, 2026

Witness: David L. Gladey and Steven Lamontagne
Request from: New England Connectivity and Telecommunications Association

Question:

(Pole Management & SPA) Reference Exhibit CLP-TSP-1, pp. 57-58. Provide a copy of Eversource's updated construction pole standards. A complete response will identify all updates made in 2025, and explain how those updates better align with industry standards.

Response:

The referenced update is incorporated in the Eversource Maintenance Plan document, provided at NECTA-028, Attachment 1 CONFIDENTIAL, EMP 5.61- Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Poles. Section 4 within this document reflects the change of moving the frequency of inspection intervals from 15 years to 10 years. This particular EMP makes reference to NECTA-028, Attachment 2 CONFIDENTIAL, WMS 08.15 - Distribution Wood Pole Inspection, Testing, and Restoration Requirements, which also was revised in the 2025 updates to reflect the new inspection and testing requirements. WMS 08.15 details the full testing process of our distribution wood poles (refer to the Company's response to NECTA-022[i]).

Eversource has reviewed its practices across all of its operating regions with respect to pole testing frequency along with industry feedback through various user groups and determined a standard 10-year pole inspection frequency provides a more proactive assessment of a poles structural condition versus 15 years to minimize catastrophic pole failures that could impact public safety. Therefore, in 2025, the decision to decrease the wood pole inspection frequency for distribution operations from 15 years to 10 years was implemented. The new testing methodology has also demonstrated an increased inspection failure rate of wood poles as the Company is now able to see the location of the pole decay and actual remaining strength to meet NESC code requirements. The shorter inspection cycle provides more timely information on changes in pole condition, allowing deteriorated or structurally compromised poles to be identified and addressed earlier to address risk of a public or system safety concern.

Eversource updated its testing methodology to using a data driven quantifiable testing methodology by moving to industry technology that adopts a resistive measurement through an IML Resi-Drill in place of non-quantifiable traditional sounding and boring methods because it provides a data driven versus human objective assessment of internal wood deterioration and can identify conditions that may not be apparent through visual inspection or sounding alone. Together, the more frequent inspection cycle and improved testing technology represent a more proactive, data-informed approach to pole management and are consistent with the electric utility

industry's movement toward enhanced asset inspection, diagnostic testing, and risk-based asset management.

Prior Referenced Response:

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[i] NECTA-022 Question:

(Pole Management & SPA) Provide all technical documentation maintained by the Company about the IML tool (Resistograph) used in the Pole Integrity Program.

NECTA-022 Response:

There are two documents that the Company maintains related to the IML tool:

The first is the work method document. Please refer to NECTA-022, Attachment 1 CONFIDENTIAL, WMS 08.14 - Wood Pole Inspection Using the IML Inspection Drill, which details the drill setup, operation, testing methods, maintenance, and exporting of the data from the tool.

The second document, NECTA-022, Attachment 2 CONFIDENTIAL, WMS 08.15 - Distribution Wood Pole Inspection, Testing, and Restoration Requirements, makes reference to the IML tester in a couple sections, but this work method document outlines the full testing process of our distribution wood poles. More specifically, it covers the steps to test, inspect, and treat and/or replace, Eversource owned and jointly owned wood poles on public or private property.