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Witness: Edward A. Davis and Kimberly R. Parsons
Request from: UCONN

Question:

(Economic Development Rider) Refer to Exhibit CLP-RATES-3 at pp. 198-201.

a. If an unaffiliated entity acquires a distressed commercial, nonprofit, or hospital facility and establishes a new electric-service account, would it qualify as a "New Customer" under the Economic Development Rider ("EDR")? Explain whether the answer depends on the form of acquisition or whether the premises received Eversource service during the preceding 12 months.
b. If the purchaser maintains or restores the facility's prior operations without exceeding its historical load, would any portion of that load qualify under the EDR? If not, identify any available business-retention or economic-development rate option.
c. Identify the factors controlling whether the purchaser is treated as a New Customer or Existing Customer and how Eversource would establish the applicable baseline and Incremental Load.
d. Has Eversource evaluated whether the proposed criteria could discourage the acquisition or reopening of distressed facilities? If so, provide the analysis. If not, explain why not.
e. Would Eversource support tariff language allowing EDR eligibility when an acquisition demonstrably prevents an imminent closure or permanent loss of load? Explain.

Response:

The Company developed the Economic Development Rider on a preliminary basis subject to further development within this proceeding. The following responses are similarly considered preliminary, and reflect details of the qualification and administrative processes of the proposed EDR, for specific use cases and scenarios, that are subject to further development and refinement.

a. The proposed EDR contemplates qualification on a customer-specific basis, for growth of existing customer load and new service. A newly acquired facility that had been previously been shut down or reduced to a minimal load that becomes a new service account might be eligible after meeting other requirements.

b. A new service for a restored operation that meets the minimum incremental load requirements, prospectively, may qualify.

c. Recognizing qualification for an existing customer of record who outright increases load at or above the minimum threshold compared with a baseline set to historical demand levels, consideration could be given to the setting of a different baseline associated with the new, incremental load (e.g., from installing more efficient equipment). Guidance may be taken from the treatment of new load and the associated CTA exemption available to customers for such incremental load.

d. The Company would need to examine this concern more closely, in the context prospectively of the proposed EDR.

e. This condition will need to be further evaluated, as to whether this condition represents and is consistent with economic development as proposed in the EDR, or business retention or another classification or condition not contemplated in the proposed EDR.