Date Filed: November 10, 2026

Witness: Jared A. Lawrence and Jason Tharp
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(BRIDGE METERS) Please refer to the Response to OCC-943, where the Company states that bridge meters can facilitate time of use rates. Please clarify that the singular barrier to a current customer on a bridge meter being on a time of use rate is the Company's "supporting billing system and interval data management system." If this is not the singular barrier, please describe all other barriers.

Response:

TOU rates require meters that record interval data, which bridge meters can record. The interval data management system (MV-90) is responsible for calling and validating interval data information, including for TOU customers. The MV-90 system normally communicates with meters via analog phone lines or cellular modems. It is technically possible for bridge meters to communicate interval data via the AMR ERT module to a meter reader vehicle. But transmitting interval data opposed to simple register reads takes much longer. Adding interval data collection to meter reading routes would reduce the number of meters a route can handle, resulting in additional AMR drive-by meter readers collecting the interval data. Eversource decided that the added cost for system upgrades to support collecting interval data from drive-by meter reading along with the increasing meter readers to support more time intensive interval read collection were not prudent and ran counter to moving to an eventual AMI solution.

The traditional method for obtaining interval data from bridge meters is to set up the AMI 1.0 network and collect the interval data wirelessly without the need for meter reader collection. But multiple intermediary systems are required between bridge meters (or AMI meters) and the billing system. One intermediary system is typically referred to as meter data management system (MDMS) and is responsible for housing the interval data for the billing system to retrieve and render bills. Another intermediary system is the head-end system responsible for calling the bridge meters (or AMI meters) to obtain the interval data. It is a significant effort to set up both the head-end system and an MDMS and integrate them with the billing system.

In short, there are significant investments required for either method of collecting interval data from bridge meters. If the Company collected the interval data from AMR drive-by meter readers, Eversource would need to upgrade the meter reading collection system, the MV-90 system, and add more meter readers. If the Company stood up the AMI 1.0 network to collect the interval data, Eversource would need to implement a head end system, MDMS, and make changes to the billing system and MV-90 system. This represents the bare minimum for enabling TOU billing with

bridge meters, but an AMI infrastructure offers many other benefits that would entail many more system integrations to realize those benefits.