Date Filed: August 13, 2026

Witness: David L. Gladey and Jeffrey Richard
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(Poles) Does Eversource have to take action in managing the communications gain on poles and how does Eversource track the costs it incurs for these actions?

Response:

Eversource does not manage the communications gain on jointly owned utility poles. Communications attachers remain responsible for the installation, maintenance, transfer, and removal of their own facilities in accordance with applicable license agreements, regulatory requirements, and industry standards. Accordingly, Eversource does not routinely incur or separately track costs associated with managing the communications space.

As the Single Pole Administrator ("SPA"), however, Eversource performs certain coordination and administrative functions related to the communications space when required.

Examples include:

- Coordinating communications attachers in response to PURA complaints or other issues involving attachments within the communications space.

- Administering attachments to Eversource-owned power only poles where there is no incumbent local exchange carrier joint owner.

- Coordinating communication-space activities associated with PURA-approved programs, including the Single Visit Transfer ("SVT") Pilot Program established in Docket No. 21-07-19.

The SVT pilot program represents the primary exception regarding communication space management activity performed by the SPA. Under the pilot, Eversource coordinates work among communications attachers, contractors, and the joint pole owner to facilitate a single contractor performing eligible communications-based transfers during one site visit. Responsibilities include project coordination, review of eligible poles, recurring meetings with the ILEC, communications providers and contractors, tracking project status, and reporting pilot progress to PURA. The pilot is limited to eligible communication space transfers and does not include electric transfers.

The SPA tracks the labor associated with supporting the SVT pilot through periodic reporting of SPA labor time devoted to program administration and coordination activities. Reported labor hours include coordination meetings, contractor oversight, project administration, reporting, and related support activities. As the pilot expanded into additional municipalities simultaneously and multiple contractors worked concurrently, the level of SPA coordination and administrative oversight increased, resulting in increasing reported labor hours.

Reported SPA labor hours associated with the pilot are approximated in the table below:

SVT Pilot Program		
Reporting Period		**SPA hours**
March 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023		92
July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023		100
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024		500
July 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024		700
January 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025		700
July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025		1,040
January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026		1,040
Total Hours		4,172

Outside of the SVT Pilot Program, administrative activities such as responding to complaints or coordinating communications attachers are performed as part of SPA's normal responsibilities and are not separately tracked by activity or cost.