Date Filed: September 23, 2026

Witness: Brendan J. O'Brien and Garrett J. Murray
Request from: ALLCO

Question:

Describe the criteria and process by which the Company or ESC decides whether a particular matter or dispute is handled by the internal legal function or referred to outside counsel (including for litigation, regulatory proceedings, and commercial disputes); identify, by title, who makes that decision; and produce any written guidance reflecting those criteria. If no written criteria exist, so state.

Response:

Expectations, guidelines and billing requirements for outside counsel are set forth in a formal document published on its Thomson Reuters Legal Tracker ("Tracker") electronic billing system site for outside law firms to review. Please refer to ALLCO-024, Attachment 1 CONFIDENTIAL, for the document in place during the Rate Year, entitled, 2025 Eversource Energy Legal Department Guidelines and Billing Requirements for Outside Counsel.

As stated in response to ALLCO-024[i], Eversource engages experienced outside counsel, where necessary, to address legal needs that require specialized expertise or incremental resources to assist the Company primarily in matters where special expertise is required or where the scope or volume of a particular matter exceeds the capacity of the in-house legal team. Decisions on the hiring of external counsel are handled by the senior managers of the Legal Department and are based on strategic and tactical considerations, suitability and capability for the issue(s) or subject matter involved, logistical considerations, and availability, among other factors, and cost, rates, and overall value are a significant consideration.

Prior Referenced Response:

[i] ALLCO-024 Question:

Produce all policies, procedures, guidelines, or criteria in effect at any time from 2018 to the present governing the selection, engagement, and management of outside counsel for the Company or ESC — including any policy addressing whether legal services are subject to the Company's competitive procurement requirements, any approved or preferred law firm panel, rate negotiation or billing guidelines, and matter budgeting requirements — and identify, by title, who has authority to engage outside counsel and any applicable dollar approval thresholds.

ALLCO-024 Response:

The Eversource Legal Department provides its expectations, guidelines, and billing requirements for outside counsel in a formal document published on its Thomson Reuters Legal Tracker ("Tracker") electronic billing system site for outside law firms to review and comply with upon opening a new matter and prior to submitting any invoices to Eversource. Please refer to ALLCO-024, Attachment 1 CONFIDENTIAL, for the document in place during the Rate Year, entitled, 2025 Eversource Energy Legal Department Guidelines and Billing Requirements for Outside Counsel. The Test Year in this rate case proceeding is calendar year 2025.

Eversource engages experienced outside counsel, where necessary, to address legal needs that require specialized expertise or incremental resources to assist the Company in matters where special expertise is required or where the scope or volume of a particular matter exceeds the capacity of the in-house legal team. For each matter in which outside counsel is engaged, the Eversource attorney responsible for the matter will define the scope of the assignment and the anticipated objectives to be attained. Eversource provides active involvement and oversight on any matter in which outside counsel is involved throughout the entire course of the engagement and seeks to achieve an effective partnership with outside counsel to ensure the best results with maximum efficiency. Per the Eversource Procurement Manual, legal services are not subject to the competitive bid or sole source requirements. However, along with strategic and tactical considerations, suitability and capability for the issue(s) or subject matter involved, logistical considerations, and availability, among other factors, cost, rates, and overall value are a significant consideration in the Company's evaluation of external law firms. Please refer to EOE-046, Attachment 7 through EOE-046, Attachment 21, for copies of the Eversource Procurement Manual.