Date Filed: October 16, 2026

**Witness: Brendan J. O'Brien, Garrett J. Murray and Danielle Munson**
**Request from: Public Utilities Regulatory Authority**

**Question:**

(AUDIT FEES)

a. The Rate Year audit fee of $717,000 includes an estimated engagement fee of $4,565,000 and an estimated allocation of 16.06%, and the Company's response to Interrogatory OCC-366 reduces it to $684,000. State the date on which the Company received the executed engagement letter, the date on which the actual allocation of 15.69 percent was determined, and the basis for filing estimates as Rate Year amounts.
b. (i) Identify each schedule in which the Company applied the estimated Rate Code C04 allocation of 16.06%, including any allocation of Electric Utility Industry Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance dues in the Company's response to Interrogatory OCC-073; and (ii) state the corrected amount for each using 15.69%.
c. (i) Identify the consultation services comprising $400,000 in Attachment 1 of the response to Interrogatory OCC-366; (ii) identify the person who performed the services; and (iii) state whether the Company's independent auditor performed the services.
d. (i) State the basis for the estimate of $280,000 of out-of-pocket expenses against engagement related expenses of $60,000 on the first progress billing dated May 6, 2026, in Attachment 3 of the response to Interrogatory OCC-366; (ii) provide the actual out-of-pocket expenses billed for each of calendar years 2021 through 2025; and (iii) identify the fees of $1,100,000 described as not charged with Rate Code C04 and the entity to which they were charged.
e. (i) Provide an invoice-level breakout of the Test Year external audit fees and for each of calendar years 2021 through 2024 as reported in Exhibit CLP-REVREQ-3; and (ii) allocate the fee under the engagement letter in Attachment 2 of the response to Interrogatory OCC-366 between the audit required by General Statutes § 16-27 and the portion attributable to consolidated financial reporting, Securities and Exchange Commission requirements, and internal control attestation.

**Response:**

a. The engagement letter was received from Deloitte and signed on April 6, 2026. The 2026 allocation rates for C04 were approved on January 29, 2026. The 15.69% was the CL&P C04 allocation rate for 2026. The Company had inadvertently incorporated the 2025 actual allocation percentage for known and measurable adjustments into the Rate Year. As noted in the Company's response to OCC-366[i], the allocation percentage of 15.69% should have

been reflected in the Rate Year amounts and will be reflected in the Company's updated cost of service.

b. The rate code C04 allocation of 16.06% is only applied to Schedule C-3.2 to derive the Rate Year adjustment. The Company plans to update its cost of service in this case to reflect actual and known and measurable adjustments identified throughout the course of this proceeding in Late File Exhibit-001.

c. As a part of the annual audit the Company's external audit firm, Deloitte, will complete a series of accounting, IT and other consultations with their National Office or other specialists required to support their annual audit opinions. These consultation items vary from year to year depending on new accounting pronouncements, system changes, specific transactions, etc. and can be applicable to all Eversource companies or direct to a specific entity or entities.

d. Out of pocket expenses are billed as part of each of the progress billings. The expenses are throughout the year and are included as a separate line item on the invoice. For example, this was the $60,000 on the first progress billing in May 2026, $65,000 on the second progress billing in July 2026, and $85,000 with the third progress billing earlier this month in October 2026. Please see the 2021 through 2025 out of pocket expenses billed below:

   2021: $130,000
   2022: $195,000
   2023: $235,000
   2024: $284,000
   2025: $275,000

   The $1,100,000 in fees not allocated through Rate Code C04 were charged to the Transmission business segments and the Eversource Energy Service Company.

e. Please refer to RRU-075, Attachment 1, for an invoice-level breakout of the Test Year external audit fees and for each of calendar years 2021 through 2024 as reported in Exhibit CLP-REVREQ-3. These fees are allocated to CL&P using the C04 rate code, using the Common methodology which is based on net income and gross plant assets.

   The fees in the engagement letter in OCC-366, Attachment 2, are not able to be allocated between the audit required by General Statutes § 16-27 and the portion attributable to consolidated financial reporting, Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") requirements, and the internal controls over financial reporting opinion. The total audit fees are calculated on a consolidated level.

Additionally, it is important to note that the audit work performed in conjunction with the annual SEC or GAAP audit and internal control reporting is relied upon as a basis for the audit submitted to PURA each year under General Statute § 16-27. The SEC or GAAP audits performed each year are also typically required in order for the Company to issue debt, meet annual debt covenants, attract equity investors and many other key functions of running the business every day to continue to provide safe and reliable service to customers.

**Prior Referenced Response:**

[i] OCC-366 Question:
Audit Fees. Refer to Exhibit CLP-REVREQ-1, page 68 lines 10-13.

a. Provide the calculations for the 2026 accrued audit engagement fees.
b. Provide the 2026 year-to-date actual audit fees.
c. Provide invoices, engagement letters, supporting the interim period and rate year amount.

OCC-366 Response:

a. Please refer to OCC-366, Attachment 1, for the calculation of the 2026 accrued audit engagement fees and build-up to the Rate Year Audit Fees expense included in the Company's cost of service.

The original Audit Fee Rate Year amount was based on the estimated engagement fee of $4.565 million compiled at the time of the filing. The actual 2026 audit engagement fee is lower by $100,000 at $4.465 million. Additionally, the allocation percentage to CL&P changed to an actual allocation of 15.69 percent from the estimated allocation of 16.06 percent. The combination of these updates results in a reduction to the Audit Fee Rate Year amount of $33,000 to $684,000. The Company plans to update its cost of service in this case to reflect actual and known and measurable adjustments identified throughout the course of this proceeding in Late File Exhibit-001.

b. CL&P has incurred actual audit fees expense of $338,380 through June 2026 YTD.

c. Please refer to OCC-366, Attachment 2 CONFIDENTIAL, for the engagement letter and OCC-366, Attachment 3 CONFIDENTIAL, for the first billing invoice for the 2026 audit.