Date Filed: September 25, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement

Question:

(MS24A-VENDOR-TREE) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1 and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1A-1, pp. 150-153. The Company reported an incremental charge of $1,984 for the Asplundh Tree Expert Co, which included a miscellaneous charge of $600 for log removal. Explain why the Company was responsible for the removal of logs in lieu of the property owner or municipality. As part of the response, identify if the Company provided any form of pre-authorization for 3rd party charges, explain the specific services performed by the 3rd party (i.e., Grillo Services LLC), and explain why those services were necessary for storm remediation purposes.

Response:

The $600 charge from Grillo Services LLC, included in the Asplundh Tree Expert Co. invoice, was incurred for log removal and disposal associated with storm restoration activities. These services were necessary to safely clear roads and restore access to electric facilities in locations where limited shoulder space, site constraints, or safety concerns prevented logs from being left on-site. While trees are left on-site for most storm-related work locations, some situations require removal because doing so would create a public safety hazard or impede roadway access.

Because log trucks move between storm locations, often across multiple municipalities, it is not practical to divert restoration resources to deliver wood material to individual municipal facilities. During storm response, log trucks may be used to remove large trunk sections and, when necessary, safely support unstable tree sections with their grapples where no safe drop zone exists. Log trucks also substantially improve restoration efficiency. Large-diameter trunk sections that would otherwise require significant time for ground crews to cut, move, and stage manually can often be removed in minutes, allowing roads to be reopened faster and restoration resources to be deployed to additional outage locations.

The Company authorized the use of these services through its storm restoration contractor as part of the overall restoration effort. Because the work was performed to facilitate blocked-road clearing and the safe restoration of electric service, the associated costs were appropriately incurred by the Company as storm remediation expense.