Date Filed: October 09, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Question:

(VEGETATION MANAGEMENT) Exhibit CLP-VMP-1, p. 40. Provide a comparison of how the new vegetation management contracts would differ from those currently in place.

Response:

Referring to Exhibit CLP-VMP-1, page 40, lines 12-17, the Company has historically utilized multi-year vegetation management contracts to provide the vendors and their workers predictable available work over a four-year contract term, which assists the vendor in retaining crews and provides a basis for tree vendors to submit competitive pricing bids in response to Eversource's solicitation. In this context, the updated 2027-2030 Vegetation Management Plant ("VMP") contract will continue to utilize a four-year contract term modeled after the success of the 2023-2026 vegetation management contract and supported by the Connecticut LiDAR data, which indicated that the best strategy is to treat all vegetation encroachment along the entire circuit length during the same year on a cyclical basis for optimal efficiency and lower overall unit costs per mile. One primary difference is that the Company has strategically separated the Waterbury Area Work Center ("AWC") from the Cheshire AWC to facilitate competition and promote operational efficiencies in the 2027-2030 VMP contract.