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Witness: David L. Gladey and Steven Lamontagne
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

State the criteria the Company applies in deciding whether an asset is replaced, repaired, or left in service, and provide the written standard with the effective date of each version in force between 2017 and 2025.

Response:

The Company does not rely on a single replacement standard applicable to all distribution assets. The Company applies a condition-based asset management approach to determine whether a distribution overhead ("OH") or underground ("UG") asset should remain in service, be repaired, or be replaced. These decisions are governed by the applicable Distribution Eversource Maintenance Program (EMP) standards and asset-specific EMP standards in effect during the period 2017 through 2025. The Company's EMP establishes inspection requirements, inspection frequencies, maintenance requirements, and corrective action processes for distribution assets.

Under the EMP, distribution assets are required to have routine inspections, testing, and preventive/predictive maintenance activities completed on a time-based maintenance program. There are also condition-based maintenance requirements dictated on an as required basis. Inspection and maintenance findings are documented and evaluated through the Company's maintenance management systems, and follow-up corrective work orders are generated when deficiencies are identified.

Following inspection, testing, or maintenance activities, an asset may:

Remain in Service when the asset is found to be operating as intended, meets applicable inspection criteria, does not present safety or reliability concerns, and has sufficient remaining useful life to continue providing service.

Be Repaired when identified deficiencies can be effectively corrected through maintenance, repair, refurbishment, adjustment, or replacement of individual components. Repair is generally the preferred corrective action when it is technically feasible, cost-effective, and expected to restore the asset to an acceptable operating condition while maintaining an appropriate remaining service life. Examples include corrective maintenance identified through inspections, replacement of failed or degraded components, and routine replacement of consumable items such as batteries used in control boxes, fault indicators, and similar distribution devices.

Be Replaced when inspection findings, testing results, maintenance history, or condition assessments indicate that the asset has reached the end of its useful life or cannot be reasonably restored through repair. Conditions that may warrant replacement include substantial corrosion or rust, advanced deterioration, structural degradation, significant physical damage, repeated failures, obsolescence, or circumstances where repair would not provide an adequate remaining service life or would not be economically justified.

Consistent with EMP 5.00, inspection findings requiring follow-up action are prioritized based on the severity of the condition and potential safety, reliability, and structural impacts. Deficiencies that present significant structural, safety, or reliability concerns are assigned the highest priority for corrective action. Less severe deficiencies are scheduled for repair based on risk, condition, and maintenance cycle requirements.