Date Filed: October 26, 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 Response to EOE-203 and Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1 and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1A-9, pp. 136-139. Respond to the following:

a. Referring to EOE-203 subsection 'a', provide the requested pre-authorization for use of the mini excavator. If documented pre-authorization does not exist, please confirm.
b. Referring to EOE-203 subsection 'a', specify if the vendor required the use of the mini excavator or if the device was solely available.
c. Referring to EOE-203 subsection 'b', clarify if the vendor would have been eligible for a meal stipend both in a situation where they did receive a Company-provided meal or in a situation where they could have received a Company provided meal, but chose not to.
d. Referring to EOE-203 subsection 'c', provided the additional records referenced to include the "dispatch information".

Response:

a. Referring to the Company's response to EOE-203[i], the Company authorized the use of these services through its storm restoration vendor as part of the overall restoration effort. Communication with vendors is primarily conducted by phone and coordinated in quick succession to have all resources staged at the onset of the event. Documented "pre-authorization" does not exist as the Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement is requesting.

b. The Company requested that the equipment be available for storm response efforts. If the Company does not secure the equipment, vendors may utilize this equipment for state, municipal, or private residential jobs and it would be unavailable when needed. There are blocked roads and other debris intensive events in nearly every storm even where mini excavators are extremely useful in clearing the debris quickly and efficiently. Please refer to the Company's response to EOE-203, part c, where the Company indicates that the Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location reports may have been missed during the scanning process. The reports cannot be located immediately but may be supplemented as they are located.

c. The vendor would not be eligible for a per meal or per diem expense in a situation where "they could have received a Company provided meal but chose not to;" however, there are

many situations where a tree crew may be unable to receive a Company provided meal. Please refer to the Company's response to EOE-203, subpart b, where the Company describes when these situations may arise.

d. The Company Arborist receives tree crew requests through multiple avenues during storm response, including phone calls, texts, the Outage Management System ("OMS"), and discussions in the Emergency Operation Centers ("EOC") and Area Work Centers ("AWC"). The event location information and details would typically be recorded via handwritten notes and dispatched to the tree crews by phone. The handwritten notes are used to track tree crews during a storm restoration event and referenced during the timesheet approval process. The Arborist dispatch notes are no longer needed after the timesheets are approved, are not stored in centralized location, and cannot be provided as requested.

Prior Referenced Response:

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[i] EOE-203 Question:

(MS24A-VENDOR-TREE) Refer to Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1 and Confidential Exhibit ACCT-2 CLP-1A-9, pp. 136-139. The Company reported two incremental charges in the combined amount of $47,132 for the Distinctive Gardens & Tree Care LLC vendor. Respond to the following:

a. Referring to p. 136, explain why the mini excavator was required for storm remediation purposes. As part of the response, provide any pre-authorizations from the Eversource arborist.
b. Identify if meals were available to the vendor employees during their support of the MS24A event and, if available, explain why the vendor would also be permitted to charge a per diem amount.
c. Explain why the supporting documents did not include Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location reports and provide copies of the reports detailing the assignments.

EOE-203 Response:

a. During storm response, mini excavators may be used to remove large trunk sections and other woody debris from roadways, when necessary. Mini excavators can 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 shifted 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.

b. The vendor was staged at the area work center ("AWC") and would have appropriately had access to available food; however, meals at the AWC do not always cover all personnel present at the location. Tree crews may be actively working on event restoration activities when meals are provided at the AWC. The time required

to break down the tree crew's worksite and return to the AWC for a meal would not benefit customers or decrease restoration time when utilizing a meal per diem would be more efficient.

c. The Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location reports may have been missed during the scanning process. The reports cannot be located immediately but may be supplemented as they are located. The Company Arborist reviewed and approved the vendor timesheet as a result of their direct supervision and knowledge of the tree crews working each shift during the restoration process. The Company verifies storm-related work using additional records, including timesheets, dispatch information, and field oversight, and therefore does not rely solely on the Eversource Connecticut Emergency Restoration Tree Contractor Work Location reports for validation purposes.