Date Filed: October 01, 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-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.

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.