Date Filed: August 21, 2026

Witness: John P. DiPaola-Tromba, Sean D. Redding and Jenna Turner
Request from: Office of Consumer Counsel

Question:

(VMP) Referring to Exhibit CLP-VMP-1, page 8. Provide support for the claim Company has experienced declining tree health in Connecticut over the past several years.

Response:

Please refer to exhibit CLP-VMP-1 page 47, at lines 10-20. The trees in Connecticut have been impacted by many meteorological and biotic factors over the last several years. These issues include repeated droughts, polar vortexes, bombogenesis, Nor'easters, microbursts, tornados, tropical storms, hurricanes, the Emerald Ash Borer ("EAB"), Spongy Moth, spotted lantern fly, and beech leaf disease. EAB infestation is of particular concern given the manner in which it affects ash trees, the fact that there is no "cure" after the infestation, and the 100 percent mortality and failure rate of infested ash trees. Trees may be treated with pesticide before infestation, but it must be done annually, and the amount of pesticide is dependent on the size of the tree. Few tree owners have made the decision to proactively treat trees. The residual effect of these influential factors are more trees that are standing dead or in declining health along the roadside forest and within reach of the Company's lines.