Date Filed: October 05, 2026

Witness: Rice, Brian J
Request from: Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Question:

Order No. 19 Compliance, July 30, 2026, Att. 1. Provide the portion of the EDCs' proposed application fee increase, as a percentage and dollar value, that is driven by increased salaries compared to 2024

Response:

The EDCs' proposed application fee was developed to recognize increases in the costs associated with administering the NRES solicitation process, including increases in salary costs. The EDCs jointly proposed increasing the application fee from $450 to $700, an increase of $250.

The proposed $700 fee was not calculated by assigning the full increase in salary costs to the application fee. Rather, the EDCs considered the increase in administrative costs and proposed a portion of the increased costs be reflected in the application fee, while avoiding an increase that would result from passing through the fully calculated cost increase and potentially burdening program participants.

Eversource: The labor cost used in the calculation increased from $275,542.00 in 2024 to $291,726.25, an increase of $16,184.25, or approximately 5.9%. The average number of bids used in the calculation decreased from 514.5 to 432. Holding bid volume constant at the 2024 level, the labor component would increase from approximately $535.55 per bid to $567.01 per bid, or $31.46 per bid, as a result of the labor increase.

United Illuminating: The labor cost used in the calculation increased from $69,606.75 in 2024 to $100,950.13, an increase of $31,343.38, or approximately 45.0%. The average number of bids used in the calculation decreased from 150 to 124. Holding bid volume constant at the 2024 level, the labor component would increase from approximately $464.05 per bid to $673.00 per bid, or $208.96 per bid, as a result of the labor increase.

Combined EDCs: On a combined basis, the salary amounts increased from $345,148.75 in 2024 to $392,676.38, an increase of $47,527.63, or approximately 13.8%.

The EDCs did not, however, propose to recover the full amount of the increased salary costs through the application fee. Instead, the EDCs proposed a $700 application fee, representing a $250 increase from the existing $450 fee, to recognize a portion of the increased costs while limiting the magnitude of the fee increase. Accordingly, the EDCs cannot attribute a specific dollar

amount or percentage of the $250 fee increase solely to increased salaries because the proposed $700 fee was not developed using a methodology that allocated the $250 increase among individual cost components.

The EDCs believe the proposed $700 fee represents a reasonable compromise between recognizing increased costs associated with administering the NRES solicitation and avoiding a fee increase that would reflect the full amount of the increased costs.