

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

RESILIENCY TREE WORK PROGRAM

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this tariff is to provide a mechanism to recover incremental vegetation-management costs associated with the Company's Resiliency Tree Work ("RTW") program, as approved by the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") in D.P.U. 17-05. The RTW Program is a component of the Company's Vegetation Management Program designed to reduce the number and duration of service interruptions caused by trees to assist in maintaining a safe and reliable electric distribution system. The RTW Program is conducted in accordance with best practice for utility line clearance standards.

2.0 Applicability

The Resiliency Tree Work Factor ("RTWF") shall be a per kilowatt-hour ("kWh") rate applicable to all electricity, measured in kWh, delivered by the Company to customers taking service under its distribution rate schedules. For billing purposes in Eastern Massachusetts, the RTWF shall be included in the Distribution Charge.

3.0 Effective Date

The date on which the annual RTWF becomes effective shall be the first day of January of each calendar year, unless otherwise ordered by the Department. The Company shall submit filings under this tariff as outlined in Section 7.0.

4.0 Definitions

- (a) Incremental RTW Expense is the operation and maintenance ("O&M") expense incurred by the Company as a result of implementing its RTW Program for expenses that exceed the Company's total test year RTW expense included in base rates set in D.P.U. 17-05, as set forth in Section 5.0.
- (b) Maintenance of Enhanced Tree Trimming ("METT") refers to pruning completed in accordance with the Enhanced Tree Trimming specification in which the clearance above the wire zone is a minimum of 15 feet and side clearance at 10 feet.
- (c) Mid-Cycle Pruning refers to the targeted pruning of sections of distribution backbone and selected laterals to address areas experiencing tree related outages, outside of the Scheduled Maintenance Trimming. This can include pruning of limbs, the targeted removal of risk and hazard trees causing tree-related outage trends, any unplanned, non-outage, tree work performed to address a vegetation condition that poses an imminent threat of an interruption, and the cutting and/or clearing of trees and limbs that have caused an interruption of service.

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- (d) Resiliency Tree Work (“RTW”) Pruning refers to pruning per a specification applied to circuits that are considered “at risk” for reliability. RTW specifications are 15 feet to the side of the wire and 25 feet above the wire.
- (e) Resiliency Tree Removals refers to the targeted removal of risk and hazard trees. Risk trees, in addition to visibly dead or dying trees, are trees that exhibit signs of decay, insect damage, or structural deformities. Risk trees also include incompatible species, such as small-diameter trees and especially fast growing weed trees, which are located underneath the distribution lines. Hazard trees are sufficiently large enough to cause damage if fallen; have a target should the tree fall; and have conditions that make it likely the tree will fall.

5.0 Base RTW Expense

Base RTW Expense shall be the amount of RTW expense included in base rates approved by the Department in D.P.U. 17-05. The total RTW expense included in base rates shall be adjusted annually based in accordance with the adjustment calculated for the Performance Based Revenue Adjustment Mechanism set forth in M.D.P.U. No. 59. The amount of RTW expense included in base rates approved in D.P.U. 17-05 is as follows:

RTW Program Expense Categories	RTW Expense Included in Base Rates
Mid-Cycle Pruning	\$1,943,800
METT/RTW Pruning	\$10,510,288
Tree Removals	None
Total	\$12,454,088

6.0 RTWF Formula

$$RTWF_C = [(IRTW + PPRA)*LA]/FkWh_c$$

Where:

RTWF_C = The annual Resiliency Tree Work Factor by Rate Class

Recovery Year = The twelve-month period the RTWF will be in effect;

Prior Year = The twelve-month period prior to the Recovery Year;

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- IRTW = Incremental RTW Expenses directly attributable to the RTW Program incurred or estimated to be incurred in the Prior Year plus carrying charges at the prime rate as published by the *Wall Street Journal*;
- PPRA = Prior Period Reconciliation Adjustment is the difference between the IRTW and the billed revenue from the RTWF. The PPRA shall include carrying charges at the prime rate as published by the *Wall Street Journal*. PPRA in the first annual filing shall include costs associated with the 2017 RTW Pilot.
- LA_c = Labor Allocator by Rate Class as shown below;
- FkWh_c = Forecast kWh by Rate Class for the Recovery Year;
- c = Rate Class

Service Territory/Area	Rate Classes	Labor Allocator
All	R-1/R-2	44.192%
All	R-3/R-4	5.968%
Greater Boston	G-1/T-1	3.338%
Greater Boston	G-2/T-2	20.927%
Greater Boston	G-3/WR	6.507%
Cambridge	G-0/G-1/G-6	0.918%
Cambridge	G-2	1.622%
Cambridge	G-3/SB1	1.428%
Cambridge	G-4	0.028%
Cambridge	G-5	0.044%
South Shore, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard	G-1/G-7	5.090%
South Shore, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard	G-2	1.446%
South Shore, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard	G-3	0.905%
South Shore, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard	G-4	0.012%
South Shore, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard	G-5	0.113%
South Shore, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard	G-6	0.019%
Western Massachusetts	23/24/G-0/T-0	2.541%
Western Massachusetts	G-2/T-4	1.019%
Western Massachusetts	T-2	1.461%
Western Massachusetts	T-5	0.553%
Eastern Massachusetts	S-1/S-2	1.372%
Western Massachusetts	S-1/S-2	0.497%
Total		100.000%

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President

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The effective rates for the RTWF shall be as referenced in M.D.P.U. No. 1 for Eastern Massachusetts and M.D.P.U. No. 2 for Western Massachusetts, as in effect from time to time.

7.0 Information to be filed with the Department

The Company shall make a RTWF filing by September 15th of each year. Such filing shall include reconciliation of data for prior periods as appropriate along with necessary supporting documentation. The Company will include information sufficient to demonstrate that the actual costs included for recovery in the RTWF are incremental to those recovered in base rates and are directly associated with the Vegetation Management RTW Program, as approved in D.P.U. 17-05. In accordance with the Department's directives in D.P.U. 17-05, the Company will submit information on its enhanced vegetation management initiative, including but not limited to costs, benefits, and contribution to reliability improvements, in each annual filing.