Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **5** of **28** 

Table 1

2017 VMP O&M Activities		
	2017 Cost	2017 Actual
VM Activity	Proposal	Cost
Cycle Prune	\$ 1,163,894	\$ 1,150,079
Hazard Tree Mitigation	\$ 800,000	\$ 622,537
Forestry Reliability Work	\$ 24,857	\$ 6,983
Mid-Cycle Review	\$ 112,000	\$ 27,745
Police / Flagger	\$ 616,852	\$ 363,349
Core Work	\$ 150,000	\$ 149,367
VMP Planning	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Distribution Total	\$ 2,867,603	\$ 2,330,060
Sub-T	\$ 484,543	\$ 409,398
VM Staff	\$ 304,757	\$ 310,885
Program Total	\$ 3,656,903	\$ 3,050343
Storm Resiliency Program	\$ 1,423,000	\$ 2,240,447
Grand Total	\$ 5,079,903	\$ 5,290,790

The following tables detail the 2017 VMP work completed by activity. Table 2 details the cycle pruning work. A total of 224 miles of cycle pruning was completed in 2017.

Table 2

2017 VMP Completed Cycle Pruning Details				
District	Feeder	Overhead Miles	Scheduled Miles	Completed Miles
Capital	C8X3	105.5	105.5	105.5
Seacoast	E11X1	11.9	11.9	11.9
Seacoast	E11X2	11.9	11.9	11.9
Seacoast	E19X2	2.8	2.8	2.8
Seacoast	E20H1	4.5	4.5	4.5
Seacoast	E28X1	10.2	10.2	10.2
Seacoast	E2X3	13.2	13.2	13.2
Seacoast	E2X2	20.1	20.1	20.1
Seacoast	E46X1	3.8	3.8	3.8
Seacoast	E54X1	21.5	17.5	17.5
Seacoast	E54X2	8.7	7.0	7.0
Seacoast	E56X1	17.0	15.6	15.6
Total		·	224	224

Table 3 details the hazard tree mitigation work. A total of 136.8 miles of line across 19 circuits were mitigated for hazard tree risk. Unitil had estimated approximately 2,228 hazard tree removals in the budget. The actual results indicate 1,566 total hazard trees were removed on these circuits and various other circuits as found through the course of work over the year.

Table 3

2017 VM	2017 VMP Completed Hazard Tree Mitigation Details					
		Overhead	Scheduled	Completed	# of	
District	Feeder	Miles	Miles	Miles	Removals	
Capital	C4W3	18.6	3.0	3.0	36	
Capital	C18W2	33.7	4.0	4.0	25	
Capital	C13W1	33.7	6.2	6.2	267	
Capital	C13W2	17.9	3.7	3.7	67	
Capital	C4X1	23.7	16.1	0	0*	
Capital	C4W4	14.2	4.0	4.0	8	
Capital	C8X3	105.5	42.5	21.0	20*	
Capital	Various				62	
Seacoast	E13W2	29.0	2.0	2.0	79	
Seacoast	E21W1	29.7	9.9	9.9	298	
Seacoast	E21W2	21.6	8.5	8.5	139	
Seacoast	E7X2	19.2	6.6	6.6	33	
Seacoast	E18X1	17.9	8.5	8.5	39	
Seacoast	E19X2	2.8	1.7	1.7	8	
Seacoast	E2X3	13.2	7.2	7.2	20	
Seacoast	E2X2	201.	12.9	12.9	41	
Seacoast	E54X1	21.5	16.2	14.2	7*	
Seacoast	E54X2	8.7	4.6	4.6	19	
Seacoast	E56X1	17.0	11.8	11.8	3	
Seacoast	E11X1	11.9	0	4.3	60	
Seacoast	E11X2	11.9	0	2.7	34	
Seacoast	Various				301	
Total			198.1	202.0	1,566	

<sup>\*</sup> All hazard trees identified, marked, and approved for removal but not yet completed in the field – removals to carry over to 2018

Tables 4 and 5 detail the forestry reliability work and mid-cycle work respectively. A total of 2.3 miles of line underwent forestry reliability work and 64.7 miles of line were completed for mid-cycle work. Four circuits had work identified in the field, but work was not completed by year end and will carry over into 2018.

Table 4

2017 VMP Completed Reliability Analysis Details					
Overhead Scheduled Completed District Feeder Miles Miles Miles					
Seacoast	E58X1	31.1	2.3	2.3	
Total			2.3	2.3	

Table 5

2017 VMP Completed Mid-Cycle Review Details					
District	Feeder	Overhead Miles	Scheduled Miles	Completed Miles	
Capital	C13W1	33.7	6.2	6.2	
Capital	C13W2	17.9	3.7	3.7	
Capital	C4X1	23.7	7.6	0	
Capital	C4W4	14.2	4.0	4.0	
Capital	C22W1	4.4	3.1	3.1	
Capital	C22W2	0.9	0.9	0.9	
Capital	C7W4	7.4	4.2	0	
Capital	C8H1	1.2	1.2	1.2	
Capital	C8H2	4.6	2.8	0	
Capital	C8X5	7.4	6.8	0	
Capital	C38E	4.1	2.3	2.3	
Capital	C38W	3.7	3.1	3.1	
Seacoast	E21W1	29.7	9.9	9.9	
Seacoast	E21W2	21.6	8.5	8.5	
Seacoast	E7X2	19.2	6.6	6.6	
Seacoast	E18X1	17.9	8.5	8.5	
Seacoast	E17W1	8.9	3.5	3.5	
Seacoast	E19H1	4.7	3.3	3.3	
Total			86.1	64.7	

Table 6 details the sub-transmission right-of-way clearing work. A total of 16.4 linear miles of right-of-way floor were cleared. A small portion of line 3358 along the RR will carry over into 2018 due to railroad flagger restrictions and delays.

Table 6

2017 Sub Transmission Clearing Details				
District	Feeder	Scheduled Miles	Completed Miles	
Capital	396	3.3	3.3	
Capital	375	3.2	3.2	
Capital	374	1.6	1.6	
Seacoast	3358	1.2	0.1	
Seacoast	3345/3356	4.5	4.5	
Seacoast	3343/3354	3.7	3.7	
Total		17.5	16.4	

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report 2017
Page 8 of 28

Additionally the sub-transmission right-of-way that was cleared in both Capital and Seacoast in 2016 underwent the integrated vegetation management (IVM) program's low-volume foliar herbicide application work in 2017. A total of approximately 222 acres were managed with IVM chemical control.

#### 2.3. 2018 VMP Estimated Expenditures and Work To Be Completed

Table 7 depicts the 2018 VMP expenditures by activity and the proposed VMP activity details. Unitil proposes to spend \$3,776,139 on VMP activities and another \$1,897,333 on vegetation storm resiliency, explained in more detail below, for a total of \$5,673,472.

Table 7

2018 VMP O&M Activities Cost Proposal				
VM Activity		2018 Cost Proposal		
Cycle Prune	\$	1,163,000		
Hazard Tree Mitigation	\$	800,000		
Forestry Reliability Work	\$	24,857		
Mid-Cycle Review	\$	112,000		
Brush Control	\$	-		
Police / Flagger	\$	573,600		
Core Work	\$	150,000		
Distribution Total	\$	2,824,351		
Sub-T	\$	626,521		
Substation Spraying	\$	10,700		
VM Staff	\$	314,567		
Program Total	\$	3,776,139		
Storm Resiliency Program (SRP)	\$	1,423,000		
SRP Acceleration	\$	474,333		
Grand Total	\$	5,673,472		

Tables 8 through 12 provide more detail on each of the VMP activities planned for 2018. The activities include 216.4 miles of cycle pruning (Table 8), 86.2 miles of hazard tree mitigation (Table 9) which estimates 2,229 hazard tree removals, 7.7 miles of forestry reliability work (Table 10), 65.6 miles of mid-cycle pruning (Table 11), and 17.7 miles of sub-transmission clearing.

Table 8

2018 VMP Planned Cycle Pruning Details				
District	Feeder	Overhead Miles	Scheduled Miles	
Capital	C13W2	18.0	18.0	
Capital	C13W3	82.7	69.3	
Capital	C24H1	2	2	
Capital	C24H2	2	2	
Capital	C33X4	2	2	
Capital	C34X4	0.2	0.2	
Seacoast	E13W2	29.0	29.0	
Seacoast	E13X3	3.9	3.9	
Seacoast	E56X2	2.4	2.4	
Seacoast	E58X1	31.0	31.0	
Seacoast	E5H1	2.4	2.4	
Seacoast	E5H2	4.9	4.9	
Seacoast	E5X3	2.2	2.2	
Seacoast	E15X1	9.7	9.7	
Seacoast	E17X1	8.9	8.9	
Seacoast	E17W2	4.8	4.8	
Seacoast	E2H1	2.3	2.3	
Seacoast	E27X1	16.1	14.1	
Seacoast	E27X2	8.7	7.3	
Total			216.4	

Table 9

2018 VMP Planned Hazard Tree Mitigation Details				
District	Feeder	Overhead Miles	Scheduled Miles	
Capital	C4X1	23.7	16.1*	
Capital	C8X3	105.5	8.9*	
Capital	C15W1	16.8	8.2	
Capital	C15W2	5.8	4.4	
Capital	C7W3	23.2	14.8	
Capital	C13W2	18.0	3.7	
Capital	C24H2	2.0	1.6	
Capital	C33X4	2.0	0.1	
Seacoast	E54X1	21.5	3.0*	
Seacoast	E22X1	51.1	11.9	
Seacoast	E23X1	23.8	6.9	
Seacoast	E6W1	27.0	10.7	
Seacoast	E6W2	19.2	7.2	
Seacoast	E13W2	29.0	10.7	
Seacoast	E13X3	3.9	2.5	
Seacoast	E56X2	2.4	2.1	
Seacoast	E58X1	31.0	7.8	
Seacoast	E5H1	2.4	1.7	
Seacoast	E5H2	4.9	2.6	

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report 2017
Page 10 of 28

Seacoast	E5X3	2.2	0.6
Seacoast	E15X1	9.7	6.3
Seacoast	E17X1	8.9	3.5
Seacoast	E17W2	4.8	2.0
Seacoast	E2H1	2.3	1.4
Total			86.2

<sup>\*</sup>carry-over

Table 10

2018 VMP Planned Reliability Analysis Details					
District	Feeder	Overhead Miles	Scheduled Miles		
Capital	C15W1	16.8	3.6		
Capital	C13W1	33.6	1.3		
Capital	C4W4	13.3	1.1		
Capital	C4W3	18.6	1.7		
Total			7.7		

Table 11

2018 VMP Planned Mid-Cycle Review Details				
District	Feeder	Overhead Miles	Scheduled Miles	
Capital	C4X1	23.7	7.6*	
Capital	C7W4	7.4	4.2*	
Capital	C8H2	4.6	2.8*	
Capital	C8X5	7.4	6.8*	
Capital	C15W2	5.8	4.4	
Capital	C7W3	23.2	14.8	
Seacoast	E22X1	51.1	25.0	
Total			65.6	

<sup>\*</sup>carry-over

Table 12

2018 Sub Transmission Planned Clearing Details				
District	Feeder	Scheduled Miles		
Capital	35	4.4		
Capital	34	2.3		
Seacoast	3358	1.1		
Seacoast	3343/3354	9.9		

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report 2017
Page 11 of 28

Total 17.7

#### 2.4. Vegetation Management Storm Resiliency Program Results

In 2017, Unitil continued the SRP, targeting the resiliency efforts in communities in the Capital area. As in previous program years, the 2017 circuits were selected through analysis of tree related reliability performance. The 2017 circuits are shown below in Table 13. In 2017, 34.2 miles of critical three phase line were mitigated and 4,209 hazard trees were removed along this portion of line.

Table 13

2017 Storm Program Work Details						
Circuit	Scheduled Miles	Completed Miles	# of Removals			
C15W1	5.0	5.0	130			
C13W3	17.9	17.9	2,899			
C22W3	11.3	11.3	1,180			
Total	34.2	34.2	4,209			

This program, now through it's sixth year, has been very successful. All program work in 2017 was completed, however the total expenses were above the estimated budget, with final expenditures totaling \$2,240,447, which is \$817,447 over the \$1,423,000 budget estimate. The overspending was due to the higher number of identified hazard trees, most prominently seen on the C13W3 circuit. In the past 5 previous years, the average number of removals per mile was approximately 66 trees per mile, ranging from 115 trees per mile down to 18 trees per mile. With the C13W3 having 2,899 removals identified over 17.9 miles, the number of removals identified was exceedingly high at 162 trees per mile. The C22W3 was also on higher range at 104 identified risk tree removals per mile. This anomaly, perhaps due to the circuit location and adjacent tree density, was noticed during the work planning phase. Even with the higher number of trees removed on these sections of circuits, it is important to note that the risk was still mitigated.

Again in 2017, Unitil continued tree growth regulator application, an additional measure to improve the health of the adjacent trees along the overhead electric line corridor. Trees remaining and being pruned were treated with the tree growh regulator chemical in order to reduce the resulting tree growth after pruning and positively affect the tree's health. The Cambistat tree growth regulator treatment creates other plant growth effects that are beneficial for tree health including increased root density,

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report 2017
Page 12 of 28

improved drought and heat resistance, and higher tolerance to insects and diseases.<sup>3</sup> 1,080 trees along the 2017 SRP corridor were treated with the tree growth regulator.

Due to the varying nature of storm resiliency work and traffic control, the Company expects costs may continue to experience minor variances, with final annual costs being slightly above or below the estimated budget. Even with yearly fluctuations, the average cost for the SRP program has remained close to the original estimate. The average cost over the last five years is \$1,418,588 and the last three years is \$1,438,597. The Company believes that the annual program funding level of \$1,423,000 remains an appropriate and reasonable estimate of the Company's targeted spending for its SRP.

The Company did experience an increase in major storms in 2017, from the absence of major storms the year previously. The largest tree related event was the October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> wind event. The Company believes that the SRP program contributed significantly to the swift restoration times and shortened duration of the event. More analysis of this storm in relation to past major storms can be seen in the report Storm Resiliency Analysis and Acceleration Proposal, Attachment 1. It is evident from these most recent results, the results of the Plaistow microburst, the 2014 Thanksgiving storm, and favorable results of the 2012 and 2013 storm resiliency pilot circuits over the last six years, that the Storm Resiliency work has the ability to and was successful at preventing tree related failures and subsequent electric incidents. This reduction in incidents reduces damage to the electric infrastructure and the need for crews to respond, which reduces the overall storm costs and expedites the restoration.

<sup>-</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 2014 Rainbow Treecare Scientific Advancements, Cambistat Customer Literature

#### 2.5. Vegetation Management Storm Resiliency Program Recommendation

For 2018, storm resiliency work on 33.5 miles of line in the Seacoast service area is proposed, at a total cost of \$1,423,000. These circuits, shown in Table 14 (a), were chosen for their recent historic reliability performance, number of customers served, field conditions, and location.

Table 14 (a)

2018 SRP Planned Work Details					
Circuit	Overhead Miles	Scheduled Miles			
E6W1	27.0	5.8			
E6W2	19.2	4.9			
E23X1	23.8	10.1			
E27X1	16.1	4.7			
E27X2	8.7	1.4			
E7X2	19.2	6.6			
Total		33.5			

Beginning in 2018, the Company is proposing additional storm resiliency work to accelerate the storm resiliency program and shorten the program by one year. An additional one-third of the normal SRP work is being proposed, see Table 14 (b). These additional 13.6 miles of line would bring the total SRP work to 47.1 miles of line in the Seacoast service area.

Table 14 (b)

2018 SRP Acceleration Planned Work Details				
Circuit Overhead Schedule				
Circuit	Miles	Miles		
E15X1	9.7	6.3		
E59X1	15.4	7.3		
Total		13.6		

The Company is confident in the positive results of the SRP and propsing to accelerate the program in order to realize full program implementation benefits a year ahead of schedule. For the accelerated circuits only, a total estimated reduction of 6 outages could be realized, equating to a customer impact of 7,638 customer interruptions and 687,624 customer minutes of interruption avoided years in advance. The avoidance of outages and the ability to return to normal service conditions more quickly after storm events while minimizing the economic impact that storm events have on customer's lives is a real benefit. Accelerating the SRP program will bring that benefit to more customers immediately. For the full Storm Resiliency Analysis and Acceleration Proposal, please see Attachment 1.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **14** of **28** 

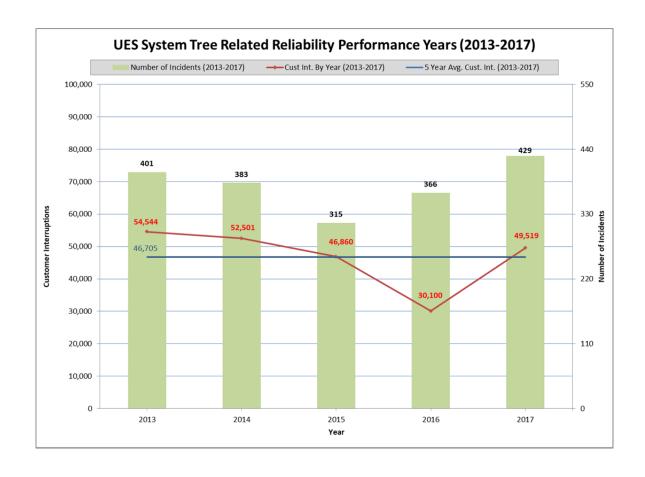
#### 2.6. Vegetation Management Reliability Performance Tracking

As the VMP progresses through its second five-year prune and hazard tree cycle, the effects of these programs on reliability have been shown over the last few years. The overall New Hampshire system tree related reliability performance was reviewed. Chart 1, shown below, displays the number of tree related incidents per year as well as the number of customers interrupted from tree related incidents from 2013 to 2017 against the 5 year average of tree related incidents during the same time period. The data used for this comparison excludes all major storm events identified by the NH PUC definition of a major storm in effect prior to 2015. The data for 2015 through 2017 uses IEEE 1366 methodology for identifying major event days. There were no major event days during 2015 and 2016 that excluded tree related interruptions. In 2017 there were 6 events that met the criteria for a major event day. They can be seen in more detail in Section 4.2 "Summary of 2017 Performance".

Similar to the obvious declining trend in tree related outages demonstrated in the past three years, Chart 1 shows a slight declining trend in customers interrupted from 2013 through 2017, with the five year average declining from 54,236 in 2016 to 46,705 in 2017. The fluctuation in number of outages can be attributed to the increase in weather events in 2017. While trees are dynamic and susceptible to damage, drought, disease and an other sources of decline, tree related outages will always fluctuate on the system. The VM program has the largest influence on the effect of tree related outages on the system, show in the relationship between the number of tree related events and the customers interrupted. The fact that the number of incidients rose to its highest level in five years, but the number of customers interrupted stayed near the five year average indicates that the VM program is producing positive results.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **15** of **28** 

Chart 1



Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **16** of **28** 

#### 3. Reliability Planning and Performance

The Company approved total spending of \$2,186,517 in the 2017 annual budget on capital reliability projects and \$300,000 in reliability O&M expenditures.

The Reliability Program covers capital and O&M activities and projects intended to maintain or improve the reliability of the electric system including: (1) system hardening measures, i.e., equipment upgrades; installation of additional fuses, sectionalizers and reclosers; SCADA and automation projects; improvements to lightning protection; installation of animal guards; and other activities to mitigate the specific causes of outages; and (2) reliability-based inspections and maintenance, which will include enhanced inspection methods to detect and mitigate outage causes before they occur, including surveys using new or improved technology such as thermography (IR) and radiofrequency (RF) sensor technology to identify and mitigate failing electrical equipment, as well as software applications to better manage inspection, maintenance, and reliability programs and data.

#### 3.1. Annual Studies

Each year the Company completes an annual distribution planning study and reliability study in each of the operation areas. Both of these studies incorporate analysis to improved system reliability.

#### 3.1.1. Distribution Planning Study

The Company conducts distribution planning studies on an annual basis. The purpose of this study is to identify when system load growth is likely to cause main elements of the distribution system to reach their operating limits, and to preliability plans for the most cost-effective system improvements.

Circuit analysis provides the basis for the distribution planning study. Circuit analysis is completed on a three year rotating cycle with the objective to review one-third of the entire system each year. The Milsoft WindMil software application is used to perform circuit analysis to identify potential problem areas and to evaluate available alternatives for system improvements. Circuit analysis includes the following: 1) update of circuit model from GIS; 2) circuit diagnostics; 3) load allocation; 4) voltage drop and overload analysis; 5) fault current and protection device coordination analysis. Engineering work requests are initiated for any apparent miscoordination identified during this analysis.

In addition to the fuse coordination completed as part of circuit analysis, the Company reviews trouble interruption reliabilityorts on a daily basis. Any outage in which the fuse did not appear to operate correctly is further analyzed to determine the cause. Engineering Work Requests are issued to

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **17** of **28** 

implement upgrades or changes on the system identified by the circuit analysis or an evaluation of an outage.

#### 3.1.2.Reliability Studies

Each year, Unitil completes annual reliability studies for each of its operating areas. The purpose of these studies is to report the overall reliability performance of the electric systems from January 1 through December 31 of the previous year (12 months total). The scope of this reportalso evaluates substation, subtransmission (34.5kV system generally off road and serving one or more substations or circuit taps) and individual circuit reliability performance over the same time period. The analysis also identifies common trends or themes based upon type of outage (i.e. tree, equipment failure, etc.). The Annual Reliability Analysis and Recommendations report for the UES Capital Operating Area and UES Seacoast Operating Area are attached to this report as Attachment 2 and Attachment 3 respectively.

The recommendations provided in the study are focused on improving the worst performing circuits as well as the overall system reliability. These recommendations are provided for budget consideration and will be further developed with the intention of incorporation into the capital budget development process.

There are several common solutions which can improve reliability depending upon the circumstance:
1) installation of reclosers or sectionalizers; 2) addition of fusing locations; 3) tree trimming; 4)
installation of tree wire or spacer cable; and 5) implementation of automatic restoration schemes. These
solutions are recommended most commonly; however, other solutions are also recommended for specific situations.

#### 3.2. Reliability O&M Expenditures

The Company has allocated \$300,000 to Reliability O&M expenditures, split between reliability centered maintenance and inspection and enhanced tree trimming. The Enhanced Tree Trimming funding of \$80,000 is intended to target "problem" areas identified through engineering analysis, while \$220,000 is allocated to the Exacter® inspection program.

Table 15 below lists the amount of operation and maintenance expenditures budgeted for 2018 and past five years on Enhanced Tree Trimming and reliability centered inspection and maintenance programs.

Table 15

Reliability	<b>Budgeted Spending Amounts</b>						
O&M Category	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Enhanced Tree Trimming	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	
Reliability Inspection and Maintenance	\$ 100,000	\$100,000	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$220,000	
Totals	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	

#### 3.2.1. Enhanced Tree Trimming

Each year, the Company completes reliability analysis on the distribution and subtransmission system. The reliability analysis identifies areas of the system which have experienced an abnormal or increasing amount of tree related outages in the previous year. Distribution Engineering provides the System Arborist a prioritized list of recommended subtransmission lines and/or distribution circuits which would benefit the most from enhanced tree trimming.

In 2017, Distribution Engineering recommended the sub-transmission 396 Line in the UES Capital area to receive enhanced tree trimming. In total, \$71,143 was spent on Enhanced Tree Trimming and 256 hazard tree removals were completed along with sideline clearing on selected portions.

For 2019, Distribution Engineering is recommending enhanced tree trimming/ hazard tree removal be performed on the 3346 and 3347 Lines in the UES – Seacoast. The work on this line will be prioritized and is budgeted not to exceed \$80,000 in 2019.

# 3.2.2. Reliability Inspection and Maintenance

In 2017, Unitil continued to inspect our distribution facilities utilizing Exacter® technology as described in the Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program and Vegetation Management Report 2013. The scope of the 2017 program included Davey Resource Group performing field survey work and analysis, and providing the company with a report of their findings. In 2017, the Company spent \$220,000 in O&M expenditures and \$140,044 in capital dollars to replace equipment identified by the survey as possibly failing in the near future.

Unitil has budgeted \$220,000 again in 2018 for Reliability Inspection and maintenance.

#### 3.2.2.1. Exacter Overview

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **19** of **28** 

As explained in our initial 2013 reliability report, Exacter® technology is deployed by electric utilities to locate overhead distribution equipment showing signs of degradation and possible failure, thereby increasing overall system reliability by preventing failures before they occur. As a result of the successful pilot, Unitil continued the program in 2017.

#### 3.2.2.2. Project Overview and Results

Unitil continued the inspection and survey program and completed a survey of all our overhead, three-phase circuitry, or a total of 419 pole miles of line. We believe this methodology provides the greatest impact to customers as a failure of equipment along these circuits would affect the greatest amount of customers and therefore have the greatest impact on system reliability, i.e. SAIDI.

The circuit survey performed in 2017 identified 76 pieces of equipment that displayed the immanent failure signature and required reliabilityair or reliabilitylacement. As was the case in prior years, the types of facilities identified included transformers, insulators, lightning arrestors, bushings, and cutouts.

Utilizing Unitil's Outage Management System (OMS) which details customer counts and protective devices, we are able to develop potential system reliability impacts. The 2017 program identified a reliability repair every 5.5 miles, and an average of 642 customers impacted by each failure event if it occurred. The estimated number of customers impacted by potential failures of all identified locations is 48,783. The estimated customer minutes of interruption would be 3,845,516, calculated using 2017 customer counts. The total opportunity for avoided system SAIDI is 49.7 minutes, which represents 33.6% of UES' most recent 10-year average annual SAIDI of 147.98 minutes.

We continue to believe the program has significant benefits to our customers, and the Company plans to continue with the program for the foreseeable future.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report 2017
Page 20 of 28

#### 3.2.2.3. 2018 Plan Proposal

Unitil is continuing the Exacter® preventative maintenance program in 2018. We will continue to perform an annual survey of all three-phase circuit miles of the UES distribution system, as failures of this equipment has the greatest impact on customer interruptions. The estimated cost to perform the annual survey and provide the analytics is \$220,000, and the cost to replace the identified equipment is expected to be approximately \$100,000 annually. Given the potential impact on system SAIDI, the company believes these expenditures are prudent and beneficial to customers.

#### 3.3. Reliability Capital Expenditures

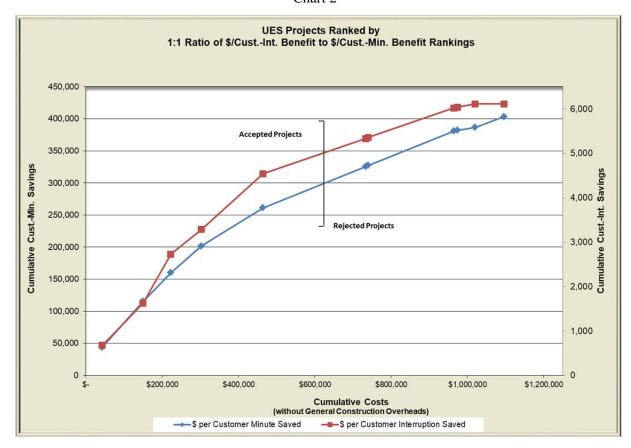
As described in section 3.1.2 above, in addition to the annual pole inspection and replacement program, each year Unitil completes annual reliability studies for each of its operating areas. The recommendations provided in the study are focused on improving the worst performing circuits, as well as the overall system reliability. These reliability projects count for the majority or all of the "System Hardening/Reliability" spending for each year.

The reliability projects recommended for the budget include a project scope, construction cost estimate and estimated reliability improvements (annualized saved customer minutes and saved customer interruptions). All of the recommended projects are ranked against each other based upon two cost benefit comparisons (cost per saved customer minute and cost per saved customer interruption).

An overall project rank is derived from the sum of these two cost benefit rankings. In general, projects with low construction cost and high saved customer minutes or high saved customer interruptions are ranked highest on the list while those projects with high construction cost and low saved customer minutes or saved customer interruptions are ranked low on the list. Another way these projects are analyzed by Distribution Engineering is shown in Chart 2 below. This chart displays the cumulative project cost compared to the anticipated reliability benefits of all projects. Each data point pair reliabilityresents a specific project and its associated reliability benefits (saved customer minutes and saved customer interruptions). This chart is used to compare the relative return of reliability benefits associated with project cost between all projects. The projects to the left of the cutoff line are those that are entered into the annual Capital Budget for approval. Those to the right have been rejected.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **21** of **28** 

Chart 2



The reliability projects for 2018 presented in Table 16 below provide an illustration of the process used to identify reliability projects. Table 16 is a listing of reliability projects recommended by Distribution Engineering as part of the 2017 annual reliability studies for the UES system which have been accepted into the 2018 Capital Budget. This project-listing details the overall project ranking, scope, cost, and anticipated reliability benefits.

Table 16

Project Ranking	Budget No.	Description	Project Cost	Cumulative Cost	Customer Interruptions Saved Annually	Customer Minutes Saved Annually
		Circuit 18W2 – Install				
		Recloser in North Direction				
1	DRBC01	out of Bow Bog	\$42,490	\$42,490	674	43,804
		Guinea Switching –				
2	DRBE06	Reliability Enhancements	\$107,321	\$149,811	954	71,568
		Circuit 43X1 – Install				
3	DRBE03	Recloser Exeter Road	\$72,462	\$222,273	1,102	44,649
		Bridge Street S/S –				
4	DRBC06	Reliability Enhancements	\$80,376	\$302,649	557	41,759
5	DDDE04	3346 Line – Automatic Restoration Schemem (Year 1	¢161 506 <sup>4</sup>	\$464.226	1 252	50.529
5	DRBE04	of 2)	\$161,586 <sup>4</sup>	\$464,236	1,253	59,528
PROPOSED NH RELIABILITY PROJECTS			\$464,236		4,540	261,308

### Recommended 2018 Reliability Based Projects

Note the project list in the table above has been sorted by project rank in ascending order beginning with the project having the best composite cost benefit ranking. This list is used by Distribution Engineering as a guide for recommending projects to be included in the Capital Budget as reliability projects. The projects listed above are those projects that were accepted into the 2018 capital budget. However, it should be noted other projects were identified in the annual reliability analysis and were not accepted in the Capital Budget as providing adequate reliability compared to the cost. The Capital Budget process approves the amount of spending for reliability projects and allows for changes of projects, if it is later determined that there are better or more practical projects.

#### 3.3.1. 2017 Actual Reliability Expenditures

The capital expenditures of reliability project construction for the Company in 2017, totaled \$2085,429<sup>5</sup>. This total includes the annual pole replacement project in addition to the projects recommended as part of the 2016 annual reliability analysis. .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Total Project Cost – 2018/19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Refer to Attachment 3 for reliability project spending

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page 23 of 28

Attachment 4 details the budgeted costs and actual expenditures of all capital reliability projects. This list includes the projects that were originally budgeted and those that were actually constructed. There were a few projects that were budgeted and then were replaced by other projects due to practicality of completing the construction.

0.000

2017

112.68

1.331

# 4. 2017 Reliability Performance

0.00

→ SAIDI

--- SAIFI

2013

131.60

1.483

2014

145.77

1.483

#### 4.1. Historical Performance (2013-2017)

The historical reliability performance for the UES system for the time period from 2013-2017 is outlined in Charts 3-5 below. These charts display annual SAIDI and SAIFI for the combined UES systems as well as separate charts for each of the UES-Capital and UES-Seacoast service territories.

Unitil Energy Systems
IEEE 1366 SAIDI & SAIFI
2013-2017

250.00

200.00

150.00

100.00

1.500

1.500

0.500

2015

112.73

1.421

2016

86.81

0.942

Chart 3

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page 25 of 28

Chart 4

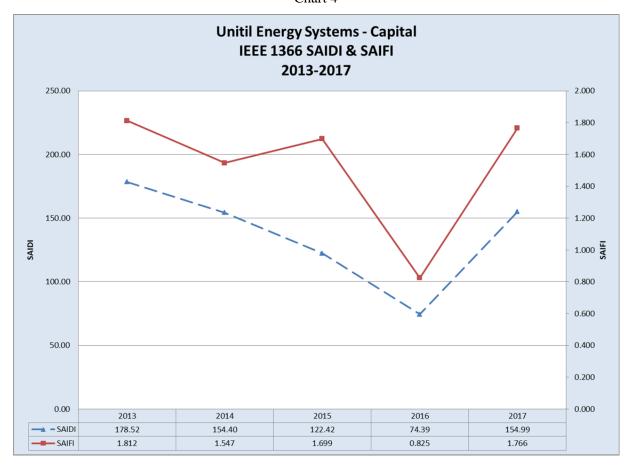
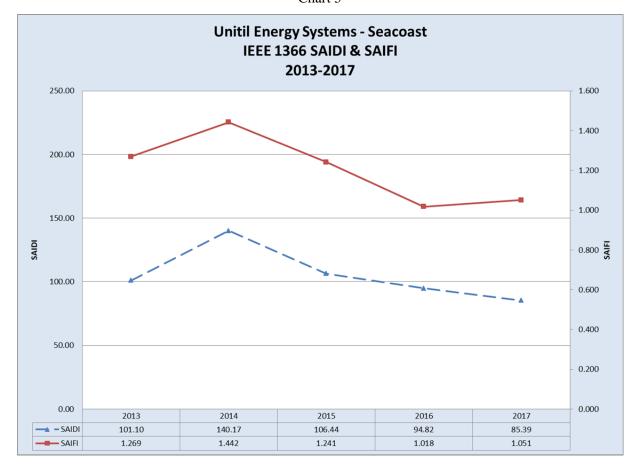


Chart 5



NOTE: Only those events causing an outage to 1 or more customers and lasting more than 5 minutes in duration are included in the calculation of these indices. In addition, events meeting any of the following criteria have also been excluded from these calculations:

- PUC Major Storm: All outages occurring in any day classified as an IEEE-1366 Major Event Day
- Interruptions/outages involving the failure of customer owned equipment
- Off system power supply interruptions

#### 4.2. Summary of 2017 Performance

The reliability orted reliability performance of the UES systems in 2017 (based on IEEE-1366) was the second best performance in the last five years in terms of SAIDI. The combined UES system SAIDI of 112.68 minutes is roughly 4.4% lower than the 5 year average of 117.92 minutes. The UES combined system SAIFI for 2017 was 1.331 interruptions which was the second best performance in

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page **27** of **28** 

the last five years. The system SAIFI is approximately the same as the 5 year average of 1.332. The total number of interruption events recorded in 2017 was 1,093.

In 2017, there were six events that met the IEEE -1366 criteria for a Major Event Day which were therefore not included in the calculation of UES system SAIDI and SAIFI. These Major Event Days are listed below:

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> Wind Event (Capital Region)
- March 14<sup>th</sup> Nor'Easter (Capital & Seacoast Regions)
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Snow Storm (Seacoast Region)
- May 18<sup>th</sup> Lightning & Rain Storm (Seacoast Region)
- October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Wind Event (Capital & Seacoast Regions)
- December 31<sup>st</sup> 3358B Recloser Failure (Seacoast Region)

Table 17 below shows a breakdown of the reliability performance of the UES system by individual cause codes.

Table 17

Cause of Outage	No of Troubles	Cust Int	Cust Hrs	SAIDI	% Total	SAIFI	% Total
Action by Others	16	1,831	2,225	1.73	1.5%	0.024	1.8%
Animal - Other	2	23	19	0.01	0.0%	0.000	0.0%
Bird	14	1,646	1,362	1.06	0.9%	0.021	1.6%
Civil Emergency (fire,flood,etc.)	1	23	63	0.05	0.0%	0.000	0.0%
Corrosion/Contamination/Decay	3	34	26	0.02	0.0%	0.000	0.0%
Equipment Failure Company	158	19,654	26,331	20.44	18.1%	0.254	19.1%
Lightning Strike	9	1,028	1,537	1.19	1.1%	0.013	1.0%
Loose/Failed Connection	13	301	410	0.32	0.3%	0.004	0.3%
Operator Error/System Malfunction	2	1,565	1,080	0.84	0.7%	0.020	1.5%
Other	3	36	49	0.04	0.0%	0.000	0.0%
Overload	7	31	48	0.04	0.0%	0.000	0.0%
Patrolled, Nothing Found	108	4,996	8,286	6.43	5.7%	0.065	4.9%
Scheduled, Planned Work	105	4,843	3,207	2.49	2.2%	0.063	4.7%
Squirrel	189	10,726	12,382	9.61	8.5%	0.139	10.5%
Tree/Limb Contact - Broken Limb	279	25,235	38,461	29.85	26.5%	0.326	24.5%
Tree/Limb Contact - Broken Trunk	100	22,624	36,640	28.44	25.2%	0.293	22.0%
Tree/Limb Contact - Growth into Line	25	698	914	0.71	0.6%	0.009	0.7%
Tree/Limb Contact - Uprooted Tree	20	887	1,869	1.45	1.3%	0.011	0.8%
Tree/Limb Contact - Vines	5	75	124	0.10	0.1%	0.001	0.1%
Vehicle Accident	34	6,666	10,149	7.88	7.0%	0.086	6.5%
Totals	1,093	102,922	145,182	112.68	100.00%	1.331	100.00%

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report 2017 Page 28 of 28

As observed from the preceding table, tree related outages had the greatest impact on the UES system reliability in terms of both SAIDI and SAIFI performance in 2017. Tables 18 and 19 below shows how the top three causes during 2017 have trended over the last three years<sup>6</sup>.

Table 18

	S	AIDI (% To	tal)
Cause	2016	2015	2014
Tree Related	54%	38%	44%
Equipment Failure	18%	17%	23%
Vehicle Accident	9%	13%	14%

Table 19

	SAIFI (% Total)			
Cause	2016	2015	2014	
Tree Related	48%	42%	43%	
Equipment Failure	19%	11%	14%	
Vehicle Accident	11%	14%	15%	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Percentages based on reliability data after removing exclusionary events based on the PUC exclusionary criteria in effect for the respective year.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 1

# Attachment 1

**Storm Resiliency Program Analysis** and **Acceleration Proposal** 

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 1
Page 1 of 7



# Storm Resiliency Program Analysis and Acceleration Proposal

# Prepared By:

Sara Sankowich, Richard Francazio, and Raymond Letourneau Unitil Service Corp. February 28, 2018

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 1
Page 2 of 7

# 1. Storm Resiliency Program Overview

In 2012, Unitil embarked on a pilot study to test the effectiveness of performing targeted vegetation management to reduce effects of storm events on the electric system. This is known as the Storm Resiliency Program (SRP) today. This pilot was initiated after the Unitil Service territory in New Hampshire was met with 2 large events in 2011, Hurricane Irene and the October Snowstorm and had sustained other frequent major storm events over the past 4 years.

The 2011 October Snowstorm caused widespread damage and prolonged outages and was ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest event in the state's history<sup>7</sup> at the time. The Commission's Regulated Utilities' Preparation and Response Report indicated customers expressed frustration with costs incurred with the outages.

"Customers also expressed frustration with the personal costs incurred as a result of multi-day outages. For residential customers, those costs are driven in part by the purchase of fuel for generators; lodging and meals for those who cannot remain in their homes; lost wages for those who work from home; and spoiled food with the loss of refrigeration. Business customers experienced revenue losses, as well. Without electricity, many customers in New Hampshire lack water, as well as heat."

In after-storm meetings with towns and annual emergency preparedness meetings, Unitil also saw that customers expressed a desire for something to be done. Customer's increased reliance on technology coupled with the economic cost of service interruption and safety aspect contributes to the changing expectation of uninterrupted service. Certain towns even expressed support for more tree work to be done.

The Company designed a plan to perform vegetation management activities on appropriate circuits and critical sections of these circuits over a ten year time period. The design was for critical 3-phase sections of a selected circuit, from the substation out to the first protection device, to have tree exposure reduced by removing all overhanging vegetation or pruning "ground to sky." Intensive hazard tree review and removal was conducted on these critical sections. In cases where the customer count was over 500 customers at the first protection device, overhang and hazard tree removal was continued to the second protection device. From that point, hazard tree inspection and removal was conducted out to the third protection device or along remaining three phase lines.

7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> NH PUC "The October Snowstorm – New Hampshire's Regulated Utilities' Preparation and Response" November 20,2012, Appendix E p55

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> NH PUC "The October Snowstorm – New Hampshire's Regulated Utilities' Preparation and Response" November 20,2012, Section VI p38

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 1
Page 3 of 7

The SRP work has the ability to prevent tree related failures and subsequent electric incidents. This reduction in incidents reduces damage to the electric infrastructure and the need for crews to respond, reducing overall storm costs.

However, tThere are also a number of additional benefits associated with a tree exposure reducing Storm Hardening program, including:

- Preserving municipal critical infrastructure
- Minimizing the dependence on mutual aid and off system resources
- Minimizing the total number of resources required to restore service
- Shortening the duration of major events
- Minimizing the overall cost of restoration
- Reducing economic loss to municipalities, businesses, and customers
- Most cost effective solution vs. other alternatives
- Minimal bill impact on a per-customer basis

The Company believes that reliable electric service is essential to the economic well-being of the businesses and industries we serve, and to the welfare of those who live and work in our communities. Interruptions to electric service are both expensive to repair, and expensive to the businesses and individuals who rely on electricity for commercial and household purposes. To cite one example, a 2004 study conducted by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) (funded by the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability of the U.S. Department of Energy) estimated that electric power outages and blackouts cost the nation about \$80 billion annually. Of this, \$57 billion (73 percent) was attributed to losses in the commercial sector and \$20 billion (25 percent) in the industrial sector. In subsequent studies performed by Berkeley Lab in 2009 and 2015 provided extensive data on the cost of customer interruptions, including estimates of the average cost of electric interruptions (in 2008 and 2013 dollars respectively) broken down by customer type, outage duration, time of day, day of week, and other variables. In a company to the commercial sector and the cost of the average duration, time of day, day of week, and other variables.

To test the validity of the program as designed, a pilot of the program was implemented in 2012 and 2013 which was met with positive results, acceptance, and praise from customers<sup>11</sup>. With the Commission's support, in 2014 the storm resiliency pilot program became a full Storm Resiliency

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Understanding the Cost of Power Interruptions to U.S. Electricity Consumers, Kristina Hamachi LaCommare and Joseph H. Eto, September 2004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Estimated Value of Service Reliability for Electric Utility Customers in the United States, Michael J. Sullivan, Ph.D., et al, June 2009.

Updated Value of Service Reliability Estimates for Electric Utility Customer in the United States, Michael J. Sullivan, Ph.D., et al, January 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Unitil "2013 Storm Resiliency Pilot Program Results – Addendum to the: Storm Resiliency Pilot Program 2012 Cost Benefit Analysis" January 24, 2014

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 1
Page 4 of 7

Program, occurring in tandem with the vegetation management program. Including the pilot years, six years of storm resiliency work have been implemented to date.

#### 2. Storm Resiliency Program Analysis

The SRP's objective is to enhance the reliability of electric feeders out to the first protective device to support the concept of bringing "normalcy" back to the community as soon as possible after a storm event. It is the realization of this concept that we would like to explore further.

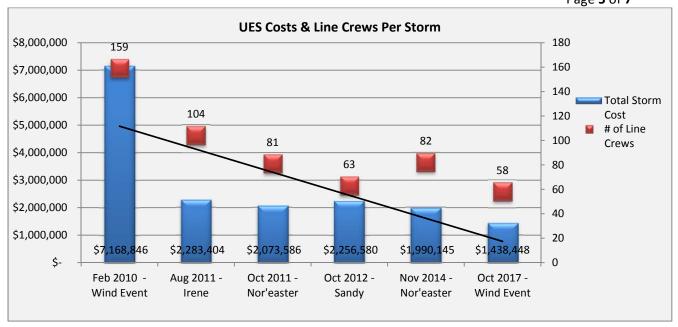
As an initial matter, it's difficult to prove what might have happened had the Company not undertaken the SRP. However, by trending storm data over the past several years, there is sufficient empirical evidence to conclude that the program is meeting its stated objectives. Those objectives include:

- Improve the reliability of treated circuits out to the first protected device
- Reduce the cost of storms
- Shorten restoration time
- o Fewer resources needed to restore
- Enhance customer relations by improving power availability during events that previously caused power interruptions

Company has reviewed the biggest storm events to impact New Hampshire over the past 7 years (see Chart 1). The data shows a decline in resources needed and thereby a decline in the overall cost of the restoration. The Company is of the opinion that there is a break point as how fast restoration can occur after the onset of an event, given the activities that have to be performed prior and during restoration such as the public safety phase. The Company believes, however, that restoration times in general have been reduced by approximately 1-2 days such that the type of storms that would have formerly taken 5-6 days to recover from are now are being restored in 4-5 days. The key is that we can now restore with fewer resources as a result of fewer damage locations related to trees, a direct result of the SRP.

Chart 1

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 1
Page 5 of 7



In addition to the cost and resource trends in major storms, there is evidence of decline in outages under normal conditions and as a result of minor storms. This can be seen by studying the sections of circuit where the SRP has been performed. The Company compared Pre-SRP (year SRP performed and previous 4 years) and Post-SRP (years after SRP – varies from 5 to 1 depending on the circuit) "tree related" outages on all SRP circuit sections. The areas where SRP ground-to-sky and intensive hazard tree removal were completed had a 74% reduction in tree related outages per year, and a 99.9% reduction in outages per mile per year.<sup>12</sup> See Table 1 below. There were only 15 outages on Post-SRP areas compared to 554 tree-related events in this time period. Outages on the ground-to-sky portions of SRP circuits Post-SRP accounted for only 2.7% of the tree related outages on the SRP circuit over the same time period, versus 7.5% (152 of 2,031) tree related outages for the five years prior to the SRP being performed.

Table 1
Areas of Ground to Sky – Not Including "Major Events"

	PRE-SRP	POST-SRP	% Reduction
Outages Per Circuit Per Year	1.23	0.32	74%
Outages Per Mile Per Year	0.3107	0.0002	99.9%
Average Customer Minutes of Interruption per year	1,795,684	669,883	63%
Average Customer Minutes of Interruption per year per mile	368,527	108,819	71%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Excluding major events and sub-transmission data

036

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 1
Page 6 of 7

In major events, the reduction in outages is not quite as pronounced, due to the lack of data being collected during storm events, and lack of opportunity to collect the data. Without data showing locations of tree-related trouble, an outage affecting a large amount of customers Pre-SRP could be related to numerous cases of tree damage, and that same outage Post-SRP could be related to only one case of tree damage. However, both events appear as a similar, single outage on the circuit. Setting aside discrepancies in the outage data, attempting to compare Pre-SRP major events and Post-SRP major events is difficult due to the fact that in many of the events, individual outage data (or even circuit level data) is not available. The February 25, 2010 wind storm, August 28, 2011 Hurricane Irene, October 31, 2011 Nor'easter, and October 29, 2012 Sandy do not have outage data for comparison. In these events it was not feasible to collect individual outage data. Perhaps the ability to be able to collect circuit and outage level data in recent major events, such as the October 29, 2017 wind storm, speaks to the reduction in trouble locations and damage on the system due to SRP efforts. At the present, the best measure of SRP effectiveness in a storm can be seen in a reduction of the overall storm restoration duration and the number of resources required shown in Chart 1.

#### 3. Storm Resiliency Program Proposal

Due to the positive impact the SRP has had on major storm event resources, restoration, and cost, the Company is proposing to accelerate the program. The original SRP plan was for a 10 year time frame, which put the initial cycle of SRP wrapping up in 2021. The Company is proposing to accelerate the plan by one year, completing an additional one-third mileage during 2018, 2019, and 2020. This would increase spending by \$474,333 for these three years, bringing the total SRP spend for each of these years to \$1,897,333.

This would have a minimal bill impact on a per customer basis, as an average customer would see an increase of only \$0.24.

By using the outage per mile per year results seen to date (Table 1 above), the impact of accelerating the SRP work can be estimated, for the actual areas and customers in the acceleration circuits. We have seen a reduction in outages per mile per year of 99%. If we accelerate 13.6 miles of work in 2018, as proposed, and see the average reduction in outage of 99%, using the past five year history we would expect to reduce the outages on these two circuits by anywhere from 1 to 2 outages, reducing customer interruptions anywhere from 1,073 to 1,273 customer interruptions, and reducing customer minutes of interruption from 53,604 to 64,604 CMI for the acceleration portion only. There are 2,015 customers served on these two circuits that would see an improvement in their reliability two years in advance.

In 2019, we would expect to see a similar reduction in outages and customer interruptions, including the additional accelerated miles in 2019 – bringing the estimated reduction in outages per mile to 3, reducing customer interruptions by an estimate of 2,546 and customer-minutes of interruption by as much as 129,208 for the accelerated circuits in 2018 and 2019 only.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 1
Page 7 of 7

In 2020, again the impact of the past two years of acceleration would be realized, plus the additional final year of acceleration, bringing the reduction in outages to an estimate of 4 to 5 outages avoided on the SRP acceleration circuits. The estimated customer impact of the acceleration project in 2020 is estimated to be 3,819 customer interruptions avoided and as much as 193,812 customer-minutes of interruption avoided.

Over all three years of the acceleration project, a total estimated reduction of 6 outages could be realized, equating to a customer impact of 7,638 customer interruptions and 687,624 customer minutes of interruption avoided years in advance, on the accelerated circuits.

#### 4. Conclusion

Unitil embarked on a Storm Pilot Program in 2012 and 2013 in response to the increasing trend of costly and devastating storm events and the need to shorten the response time and event duration. The initial success of the targeted vegetation pilot and anticipated future savings and economic benefits to customers led to approval of the continuance of storm pilot work as an annual Storm Resiliency Program. The Company has seen a clear decline in resources needed in major storms, and a decline in the overall cost of restoration since the SRP program has been in effect. While difficult to quantify, the customer impact of shorter duration events, or the avoidance of events, has been the biggest benefit. The ability to return to normal service conditions more quickly after an event, and allow affected customers to get back to school and to work, and minimize the economic impact that storm events have on customer's lives is the real benefit. Accelerating the SRP program will bring that benefit more quickly to more customers.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 2

Attachment 2

UES – Capital
Reliability Study 2017

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 1 of 21



# Unitil Energy Systems - Capital Reliability Study 2017

Prepared By: Tyler Glueck Unitil Service Corp. Feb 7, 2018

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 2 of 21

<u>1.</u>	EXI	ECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
<u>2.</u>	REI	LIABILITY GOALS	3
<u>3.</u>		TAGES BY CAUSE	
<u>4.</u>		WORST DISTRIBUTION OUTAGES	
<u>5.</u>		B-TRANSMISSION LINE AND SUBSTATION OUTAGES	
<u>6.</u>	WO	DRST PERFORMING CIRCUITS	7
6	.1. .2. .3.	Worst Performing Circuits in Past Year Worst Performing Circuits of the Past Five Years (2012 – 2016)  Improvements to Worst Performing Circuit (2014-2016)	9
<u>7.</u>	TRI	EE RELATED OUTAGES IN THE PAST YEAR (1/1/16-12/31/16)	11
<u>8.</u>	FAI	ILED EQUIPMENT IN THE PAST YEAR	12
<u>9.</u>		ILTIPLE DEVICE OPERATIONS IN THE PAST YEAR (1/1/15-12/31/15)	
<u>10.</u>	<u>C</u>	OTHER CONCERNS	16
1	0.1.	NARROW SUBTRANSMISSION ROW EXPANSION	
_	0.2.	13.8KV UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC SYSTEM DEGRADATION	
	0.3.	ALTERNATE MAINLINE FOR LARGE 34.5KV CIRCUITS.	
	0.4.	ONE BOLT CONNECTOR REPLACEMENT	
_	0.5.	URD'S UTILIZING DIRECT BURIED CABLE OF 1970'S VINTAGE	
1	0.6.	SINGLE PHASE UNDERGROUND LOOP-FEED AT COURT ST	18
<u>11.</u>	R	RECOMMENDED RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	18
1	1 1	CIRCUIT 18W2: INSTALL RECLOSERS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS OUT OF BOW BOG SUBSTATION	18
-	11.1		
	11.1		
1		CIRCUIT 18W2: INSTALL FUSE IN BLEVENS RD TAP.	
	11.2		
	11.2		
1	1.3.	CIRCUIT 18W2: REPLACE LOW-SIDE STEP-DOWN FUSE WITH RECLOSER ON SMITH-SANBORN RD	19
	11.3	<u> 3.1. Identified Concern</u>	19
	<i>11.3</i>	3.2. <u>Recommendation</u>	19
1	1.4.	CIRCUIT 13W3: REPLACE NORTH WATER ST FUSE WITH SECTIONALIZER	19
	<u>11.4</u>		
	<i>11.4</i>		
1	<u>1.5.</u>	BUILD CIRCUIT-TIE BETWEEN 8X3 AND 8X5	
	<u>11.5</u>		
	<u>11.5</u>		
1	<u>1.6.</u>	MISCELLANEOUS CIRCUIT IMPROVEMENTS TO REDUCE RECURRING OUTAGES	
	<u>11.6</u>	6.1. <u>Identified Concerns &amp; Recommendations</u>	20
12	(	CONCLUSION	21

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 3 of 21

# **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this document is to report on the overall reliability performance of the UES-Capital system from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The scope of this report will also evaluate individual circuit reliability performance over the same time period. The outage data from the following storm has been excluded from these analyses: July '16 wind/thunder storm from 07/23/2016 00:00 to 07/24/2016 00:00.

The following projects are proposed from the results of this study and are focused on improving the worst performing circuits as well as the overall UES-Capital system reliability. These recommendations are provided for consideration and will be further developed with the intention to be incorporated into the 2018 budget development process.

Circuit / Line / Substation	Proposed Project	Cost (\$)
8X3	Install Fuse Saver on Lane Rd.	\$9,000
22W3	Install Sectionalizers on Birchdale Rd.	\$10,000
BOW JUNCITON	Install an Auto-Transfer Scheme	\$100,000
396 LINE	Install and Auto Sectionalizing scheme	\$40,000

Note: estimates do not include general construction overheads

#### **Reliability Goals**

The annual corporate system reliability goals for 2016 were set at 176-151-126 SAIDI minutes. These were developed through benchmarking Unitil system performance with surrounding utilities.

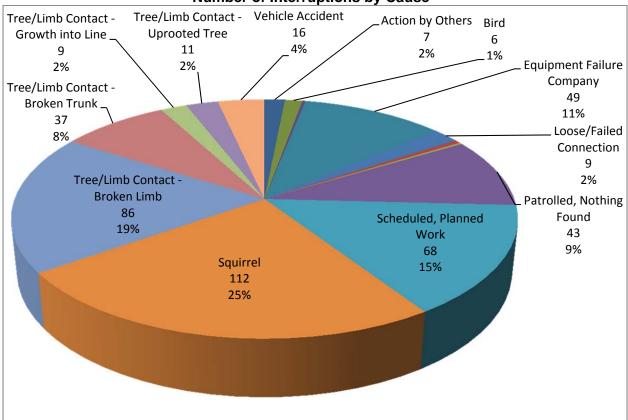
Individual circuits will be analyzed based upon circuit SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI. Analysis of individual circuits along with analysis of the entire Capital system is used to identify future capital improvement projects and/or operational enhancements which may be required in order to achieve and maintain these goals.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 4 of 21

# **Outages by Cause**

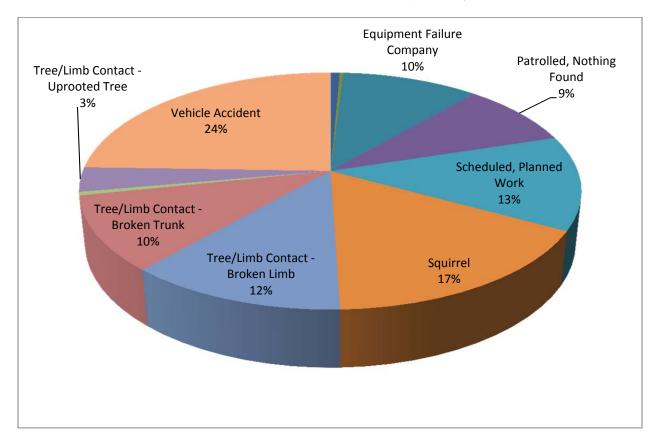
This section provides a breakdown of all outages by cause code experienced during 2016. Chart 1 lists the number of interruptions, and the percent of total interruptions, due to each cause. For clarity, only those causes occurring more than 5 times are labeled. Chart 2 details the percent of total customer-minutes of interruption due to each cause, only those causes contributing greater than 2% of the total are labeled.





Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 5 of 21

Chart 2
Percent of Customer-Minutes of Interruption by Cause



Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 6 of 21

# **10 Worst Distribution Outages**

The ten worst distribution outages ranked by customer-minutes of interruption during the time period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Worst Ten Distribution Outages

Worst Tell Distribution Outages						
Circuit	Date/Cause	Customer Interruptions	Cust-Min of Interruption	SAIDI	SAIFI	
C4X1	10/27/2016 Vehicle Accident	2,638	181,571	6.04	0.088	
C22W3	07/09/2016 Vehicle Accident	1,608	148,318	4.94	0.054	
C15W1	07/26/2016 Tree/Limb Contact - Broken Trunk	1,299	87,712	2.92	0.043	
C21W1A	06/15/2016 Equipment Failure Company	282	78,114	2.6	0.009	
C4X1	07/29/2016 Vehicle Accident	282	70,782	2.36	0.009	
C2H2	10/09/2016 Vehicle Accident	389	68,757	2.29	0.013	
C16X4	04/15/2016 Civil Emergency (fire,flood,etc.)	1,063	60,733	2.02	0.035	
C13W3	11/27/2016 Patrolled, Nothing Found	675	59,376	1.98	0.022	
C13W1	06/26/2016 Squirrel	282	56,400	1.88	0.009	
C13W3	01/04/2016 Equipment Failure Company	282	47,088	1.57	0.009	

Note: This table does not include substation, sub-transmission or scheduled planned work outages.

## **Sub-transmission Line and Substation Outages**

This section describes the contribution of sub-transmission line and substation outages on the UES-Capital system from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

All substation and sub-transmission outages ranked by customer-minutes of interruption during the time period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 are summarized in Table 2 below.

Table 3 shows the circuits that have been affected by sub-transmission line outages. The table illustrates the contribution of customer minutes of interruption for each circuit affected by a sub-transmission outage.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 7 of 21

Table 2
Sub-transmission and Substation Outages

Line/Substation	Date/Cause	Customer Interruptions	Cust-Min of Interruption	SAIDI	SAIFI
Line 33	06/02/2016 Operator Error/System Malfunction	1,178	24,131	0.80	0.039
Bow Junction Substation	07/10/2016 Squirrel	1,721	296,879	9.88	0.057
Line 396X1	10/06/2016 Action by Others	1,136	90,685	3.02	0.038

Table 3
Contribution of Sub-transmission and Substation Outages

Circuit	Substation / Transmission Line Outage	Cust-Min of Interruption	% of Total Circuit CMI	Circuit SAIDI Contribution	Number of Events
C33X3	Line 33	21	100%	21.13	1
C33X4	Line 33	1,372	100%	20.18	1
C33X5	Line 33	63	100%	15.71	1
C33X6	Line 33	20	100%	4.10	1
C6X3	Line 33	22,655	89%	20.28	1
C7W3	Bow Junction Substation	230,728	93%	254.11	1
C7W4	Bow Junction Substation	66,151	86%	84.92	1
C17X1	Line 396X1	40	100%	20.00	1
C18W2	Line 396X1	90,645	49%	75.79	1

# **Worst Performing Circuits**

This section compares the reliability of the worst performing circuits using various performance measures. All circuit reliability data presented in this section includes subtransmission or substation supply outages unless noted otherwise.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 8 of 21

# **Worst Performing Circuits in Past Year**

A summary of the worst performing circuits during the year of 2016 is included in the tables below. Table 4 shows the ten worst circuits ranked by the total number of Customer-Minutes of interruption. The SAIFI and CAIDI for each circuit are also listed in this table. Table 5 provides detail on the major causes of the outages affecting these circuits. Customer-minutes of interruption are given for the six most prevalent causes during 2016.

Circuits having one outage contributing more than 75% of the Customer-Minutes of interruption were excluded from this analysis.

Table 4
Worst Performing Circuits by Customer-Minutes

Circuit	Customer Interruptions	Worst Event (% of CI)	Cust-Min of Interruption	Worst Event (% of CMI)	SAIDI	SAIFI	CAIDI
C4X1	3,287	80%	276,811	66%	146.38	1.738	84.21
C21W1A	1,130	25%	252,669	31%	892.82	3.993	223.6
C22W3	2,385	67%	215,821	69%	136.51	1.509	90.49
C13W3	2,143	27%	186,166	24%	117.09	1.348	86.87
C18W2	2,386	48%	185,878	49%	155.42	1.995	77.9
C8X3	2,205	9%	177,913	12%	62.34	0.773	80.69
C15W1	1,930	67%	147,366	60%	147.96	1.938	76.36
C13W1	880	55%	69,392	44%	140.76	1.785	78.86
C4W3	797	19%	65,268	32%	47.5	0.58	81.89
C4W4	716	43%	37,756	44%	16.49	0.313	52.73

Note: all percentages and indices are calculated on a circuit basis

Table 5
Circuit Interruption Analysis by Cause

	Customer-Minutes of Interruption / # of Outages								
Circuit	Vehicle Accident	Squirrel	Scheduled, Planned Work	Tree/Limb Contact - Broken Trunk	Tree/Limb Contact - Broken Limb	Equipment Failure Company			
C4X1	250,327 / 2	0/0	260 / 2	75 / 1	6,463 / 3	9,741 / 3			
C21W1A	0/0	0/0	181,887 / 5	0/0	0/0	70,782 / 1			
C22W3	148,633 / 2	10,265 / 12	2,620 / 4	7,536 / 2	24,281 / 8	8,492 / 3			
C13W3	36,311 / 4	13,035 / 15	70 / 1	22,734 / 9	11,126 / 13	30,807 / 8			
C18W2	818 / 1	24,043 / 15	224 / 3	10,325 / 1	25,814 / 7	1,182 / 3			

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 9 of 21

C8X3	586 / 3	50,500 / 26	1,320 / 4	22,866 / 9	38,686 / 25	8,304 / 4
C15W1	21,382 / 1	14,860 / 5	0/0	87,917 / 2	22,613 / 5	544 / 1
C13W1	0/0	33,222 / 6	2,927 / 2	20,553 / 7	2,759 / 4	871 / 1
C4W3	0/0	11,777 / 3	550 / 3	4,881 / 1	33,402 / 3	7,946 / 5
C4W4	0/0	11,630 / 7	1,195 / 6	16,782 / 2	2,523 / 2	3,780 / 3

# **Worst Performing Circuits of the Past Five Years (2012 – 2016)**

The annual performance of the ten worst circuits in terms of SAIDI and SAIFI for the past five years is shown in the tables below. Table 6 lists the ten worst circuits ranked by SAIDI performance. Table 7 lists the ten worst performing circuits ranked by SAIFI.

The data used in this analysis includes all system outages except those outages that occurred during the 2016 July wind/thunder storm, 2014 November Cato Snowstorm, and 2012 Hurricane Sandy.

Table 6
Circuit SAIDI

Circuit 2016		16	201	15	20	2014		2013		2012	
Ranking (1=worst)	Circuit	SAIDI	Circuit	SAIDI	Circuit	SAIDI	Circuit	SAIDI	Circuit	SAIDI	
1	C21W1A	892.82	C21W1A	803.71	C15W2	794.83	C16H1	1524.26	C13W2	817.42	
2	C7W3	272.49	C34X2	399.45	C22W3	729.57	C375X1	1018	C13W1	425.04	
3	C34X2	244.8	C13W3	357.44	C35X1	573.63	C37X1	861.07	C211P	381.91	
4	C37X1	176.22	C375X1	318.05	C24H1	570.48	C13W2	744.95	C211A	270	
5	C18W2	155.42	C14H2	288.1	C24H2	545.14	C13W1	739.74	C8X3	244.17	
6	C15W1	147.96	C16X4	281.37	C22W1	534.36	C16X5	720.5	C18W2	223.12	
7	C4X1	146.38	C16H1	281.3	C22W2	512.65	C8X3	708.72	C7W3	193.84	
8	C13W1	140.76	C7W3	281.18	C15W1	499.87	C13W3	609.67	C34X2	165	
9	C22W3	136.51	C16H3	280.82	C7W3	444.56	C24H1	524.03	C15W1	152.67	
10	C13W3	117.09	C16X5	280.05	C38W	441.97	C18W2	521.3	C15W2	135.36	

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 10 of 21

# Table 7 Circuit SAIFI

Circuit	201	6	201	5	20	14	2013		2012	
Ranking (1=worst)	Circuit	SAIFI								
1	C21W1A	3.993	C21W1A	6.356	C24H1	7.143	C13W2	7.068	C13W2	9.52
2	C37X1	2.418	C16X4	5.023	C24H2	6.987	C16X5	5.5	C13W1	4.858
3	C18W2	1.995	C16H1	5.02	C15W2	6.597	C37X1	5.412	C21W1P	3.037
4	C15W1	1.938	C16X5	5	C22W3	5.832	C13W1	5.405	C7W3	2.458
5	C13W1	1.785	C16X6	5	C3H1	4.251	C22W3	4.849	C18W2	2.386
6	C1X7P	1.778	C375X1	5	C22W1	4.034	C4W3	4.574	C6X3	2.283
7	C4X1	1.738	C16H3	4.998	C38W	4.022	C13W3	4.547	C8X3	2.25
8	C22W3	1.509	C7W3	4.85	C22W2	4	C7W3	4.547	C15W1	2.053
9	C7W3	1.396	C13W3	4.567	C7W3	3.982	C18W2	4.337	C22W1	2
10	C13W3	1.348	C18W2	4.127	C14X3	3.5	C16H1	4.12	C13W3	1.834

# Improvements to Worst Performing Circuit (2014-2016)

Projects completed from 2014 to 2017 that are expected to improve the reliability of the worst performing circuits are included in table 8 below.

Table 8
Improvements to Worst Performing circuits

Circuits	Year of Completion	Project Description
21W1A	2016	Completed work to allow energized transfer for planned work (added cable, added junctions, moved switchgear)
	2010	Replaced fault indicator system
	2014	Forestry Review
15W1	2015	Cycle Pruning / Hazard Tree Mitigation
	2016	New Hydraulic Recloser Installation
	2014	Forestry Review / Installed Animal Guards in problem areas
18W2	2015	Fuse Addition / Sectionalizer Installations
	2016	Cycle Pruning
474	2014	Fuse Changes/Additions
4X1	2014	Cutout Replacements
22W3	2014	Forestry Review / Installed Animal Guards in problem area

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 11 of 21

Circuits	Year of Completion	Project Description
	2015	Cycle Pruning / Hazard Tree Mitigation / Installed Animal Guards in problem areas / Fuse savings implemented in problem areas
13W3	2014	Hazard Tree Mitigation / Mid Cycle Review
37X1	2014	Fuse Changes/Additions
13W1	2014	Cycle Pruning
13001	2015	Fuse Changes/Additions
8X3	2015	Hazard Tree Mitigation / SRP / Mainline One Bolt Connectors Replaced / Replaced Insulators that are well known for higher than normal failure rate / Fuse Addition
	2016	Sectionalizer Installation
7W3	2015	Cycle Pruning / Hazard Tree Mitigation
375 Line <sup>13</sup>	2015	Cycle Pruning / Clearing zone expanded
373 Lille	2016	ROW tree clearing zone expanded

# Tree Related Outages in the Past Year (1/1/16-12/31/16)

This section summarizes the worst ten performing circuits by tree related outages during 2016.

Table 9 shows the ten worst circuits ranked by the total number of Customer-Minutes of interruption caused by tree related faults on the circuit. The number of customer-interruptions and number of outages are also listed in this table. Circuits having less than three outages were excluded from this table.

All streets on the Capital System with three or more tree related outages are shown in Table 10 below. The table is sorted by number of outages and customer-minutes of interruption and does not include major events.

.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 13}$  The 375 Line work will improve reliability performance on 16H1,16H3, 16X4, 16X5, 16X6 and 375X1

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 12 of 21

Table 9
Worst Performing Circuits – Tree Related Outages

Worst remorning on cuits Tree Related Outages								
Circuit	uit Customer Number of Customers Interruption Interrupted		No. of Interruptions					
C15W1	110,529	1,628	7					
C8X3	81,508	1,033	38					
C13W3	54,011	542	29					
C22W3	38,883	434	11					
C4W3	38,283	398	4					
C18W2	36,192	414	9					
C13W1	29,551	299	15					
C4W4	19,305	355	4					
C4X1	15,877	124	5					
C37X1	10,456	155	4					

Table 10
Multiple Tree Related Outages by Street

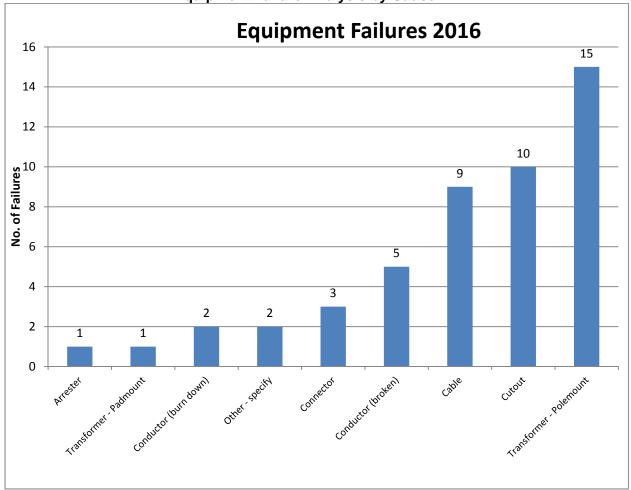
Circuit	Street, Town	# Outages	Customer- Minutes of Interruption	Number of Customer Interruptions
C13W3	North Water St, Boscawen	6	10,100	114
C13W1	Morrill Rd, Canterbury	4	7,758	120
C8X3	New Orchard Rd, Epsom	3	8,097	83

# Failed Equipment in the Past Year

This section is intended to clearly show all equipment failures throughout the year of 2016. Chart 3 shows all equipment failures throughout the study period. Chart 4 shows each equipment failure as a percentage of the total failures within this same study period. Chart 5 shows the top four types of failed equipment within the study period with five years of historical data.

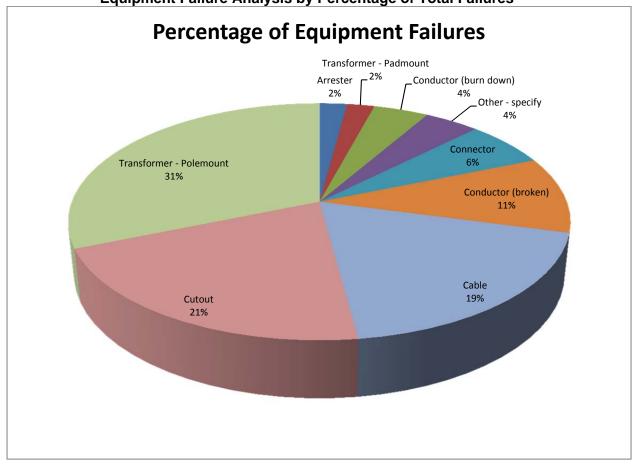
Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 13 of 21

Chart 3
Equipment Failure Analysis by Cause



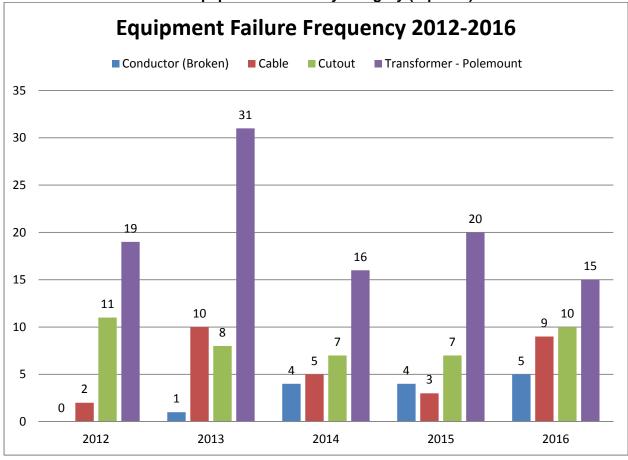
Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 14 of 21

Chart 4
Equipment Failure Analysis by Percentage of Total Failures



Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 15 of 21

Chart 5
Annual equipment failures by category (top four)



Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 16 of 21

# **Multiple Device Operations in the Past Year (1/1/15-12/31/15)**

Table 11 below is a summary of the devices that have operated three or more times in 2016. All exclusionary events are removed in this table.

Table 11
Multiple Device Operations

Circuit	Number of Operations	Device	Customer Minutes	Customer Interruptions
C8X3	7	Fuse, Pole 11, Old Town Rd, Epsom	7,638	119
C18W2	5	Fuse, Pole 34, Putney Rd, Bow	11,487	165
C22W3	4	Fuse, Pole 1, Rocky Point Dr, Bow	8,534	120
C8X3	4	Fuse, Pole 1, Smith Sanborn Rd, Chichester	21,009	308
C13W3	3	Fuse, Pole 1, North Water St, Boscawen	9,863	111
C13W3	3	Fuse, Pole 10, Terrace Hill Rd, Boscawen	2,465	48
C18W2	3	Fuse, Pole 1, Allen Rd, Bow	19,369	283
C8X3	3	Fuse, Pole 16, Highland Dr, Chichester	3,341	30
C15W1	3	Fuse, Pole 65, East Side Dr, Concord	6,710	114
C4W4	3	Trans. Breaker, Pole 10, Hutchins St, Concord	1,924	23
C4W3	3	Fuse, Pole 158, Mountain Rd, Concord	975	9
C21W1A	3	Recloser, Substation, Storrs St, Concord	174,270	846

## **Other Concerns**

This section is intended to identify other reliability concerns that would not necessarily be identified from the analysis above.

# Narrow subtransmission ROW expansion

The UES-Concord subtransmission system has some areas where the Right Of Way (ROW) is narrow, thus, even after pruning trees to the edge of the ROW we leave our system vulnerable to damage by falling trees. Historically, Unitil has experienced noticeably more outages, due to falling trees, on lines that are in narrow ROW in comparison to lines in larger ROW. Unitil has been able to successfully expand ROW tree lines in 2015 and will continue these efforts in 2016. This effort is expected to allow effective tree mitigation in the problem areas.

## 13.8kV Underground Electric System Degradation

The 13.8kV underground electric system has been experiencing connector and conductor failures at an average rate of 0.8 per year for the last 5 years. This does

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 17 of 21

not include scheduled replacement of hot terminations identified by inspection; hot terminations have been identified and replaced regularly, without causing outage. In 2015, a study on this system was completed. It identified age and use of 200A connectors may be a contributing factor to failures. Energized transfer capability is being built into this underground system to reduce the number of outages experienced by customers, during equipment replacement.

# Alternate Mainline for Large 34.5kV Circuits

Circuit 8X3 has the largest customer exposure on the capital system at 2,764 customers with an 11.5MVA peak, in 2014. This circuit has no alternate feeds to restore customers during mainline outages.

Building an alternate mainline to reduce customer exposure and allow an alternate feed during contingency scenarios is the ultimate goal for this area. Three alternatives where reviewed. One involved constructing a pole line outside of UES territory, one involved double circuiting, and the final involved rebuilding Horse Corner Rd. The Horse Corner Rd route is preferred because it will create an alternate pole line and does not involve joint construction with Eversource.

## **One Bolt Connector Replacement**

One bolt connectors on primary conductor are required to be installed on stirrups, by existing construction standards. Surveys have found many one bolt connectors installed directly on primary conductor. It has been found that stranded conductor can become damaged by single bolt connectors directly connected, reducing the conductor's thermal and mechanical strength. This damage has been found to be most drastic on 34.5kV energized conductor. Due to recent outages and noticeable damage found on 34.5kV circuits, it has become a priority to replace these connectors on 34.5kV energized mainline. Significant work was done in 2015 to mitigate this problem on circuits 6X3, 7X1, 8X5 and 8X3. Work is planned to continue on circuits 8X5 and 8X3 in 2016.

## **URD's Utilizing Direct Buried Cable of 1970's vintage**

Direct buried cable URD's are failing at an increasing rate, about 1-3 failures per year as of 2015. When a direct buried cable fails, Unitil splices a small section of new cable into the run of aged cable. The remaining aged cable in that area is just as susceptible to failure, so additional failures persist more frequently. When cable in conduit fails, entire runs of cable are replaced, preventing this issue. This can't be done easily for direct buried due to cost and digging permissions. Some options to help mitigate this problem: one is to improve dielectric strength of existing cable with cable injection; two is to reduce the operating voltage of a URD and three replace runs of direct buried cable with conduit and new conductor. Option one and two are not ideal because aged direct buried cable typically has other concerns such as a

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 18 of 21

degrading neutral. Option three is preferred and is being done now but it is expensive and requires implementing multiyear plans to reduce the impact of this cost.

# Single Phase Underground Loop-Feed at Court St

#### **Identified Concern**

The single-phase underground cable at Court St that is used as a redundant feed for several customers on North State St is left un-energized because it doesn't normally feed customers. There is a concern that if there is a fault on this section of cable, it could take out Circuit 21W1A. With the cable left un-energized, we wouldn't know if there was a problem with the cable until it was energized.

#### Recommendation

Install an interrupter in the single phase loop out of MH22.

# **Recommended Reliability Improvement Projects**

This following section describes recommendations on circuits, sub-transmission lines and substations to improve overall system reliability. The recommendations listed below will be compared to the other proposed reliability projects on a system-wide basis. A cost benefit analysis will determine the priority ranking of projects for the 2018 capital budget. All project costs are shown without general construction overheads

# Circuit 18W2: Install Reclosers in Both Directions out of Bow Bog Substation

#### **Identified Concerns**

Circuit 18W2 has been in the list of 10 worst circuits in regards to SAIDI and SAIFI for three of the last five years. In the past five years since 2012, the 18W2 recloser has operated four times due to faults on the mainline.

#### Recommendations

Install a Recloser in Northern Direction out of Bow Bog Substation

Estimated Project Cost (without construction overheads): \$ 64,000 Estimated Annual Savings – Customer Minutes: 43,804, Customer Interruptions: 674

Install a Recloser in Southern Direction out of Bow Bog Substation and a Sectionalizer on Allen Rd.

Estimated Project Cost (without construction overheads): \$ 68,000 Estimated Annual Savings – Customer Minutes: 4,616, Customer Interruptions: 71

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 19 of 21

# Circuit 18W2: Install Fuse in Blevens Rd Tap

#### **Identified Concerns**

The fuse a P.34 Putney Rd. in Bow had five operations in 2016. Three of the operations were due to squirrels. One was due to a broken limb and one was patrolled and nothing found.

## Recommendations

Install a fuse in the Blevens Rd tap.

Estimated Project Cost (without construction overheads): minimal Estimated Annual Savings – Customer Minutes: 256, Customer Interruptions: 4

# Circuit 18W2: Replace Low-Side Step-Down fuse with Recloser on Smith-Sanborn Rd

#### Identified Concern

The fuse a P.1 Smith-Sanborn Rd. in Chichester had four operations in 2016. Two of the operations were due to squirrels. One was due to a broken limb and one was patrolled and nothing found.

# Recommendation

Replace low-side step-down fuse with a 70A V4L hydraulic recloser and the hi-side fuse with a 65K fuse. Also, install fusing at the two unfused downline taps.

Estimated Project Cost: \$12,000

Estimated Annual Savings – Customer Minutes of Interruption: 1,267, Customer

Interruptions: 20

## Circuit 13W3: Replace North Water St Fuse with Sectionalizer

#### **Identified Concern**

The fuse at P.1 North Water St. in Boscawen had three operations in 2016 that were all tree related.

# Recommendation

Replace the fuse at P.1 North Water St. with a sectionalizer and install a fuse about half-way down the North Water St. tap.

Estimated Project Cost: \$8,000

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 20 of 21

Estimated Annual Savings – Customer Minutes of Interruption: 1,732, Customer Interruptions: 27

#### **Build Circuit-Tie Between 8X3 and 8X5**

## **Identified Concern**

The fuse at P.1 North Water St. in Boscawen had three operations in 2016 that were all tree related.

#### Recommendation

Replace the fuse at P.1 North Water St. with a sectionalizer and install a fuse about half-way down the North Water St. tap.

Estimated Project Cost: \$8,000

Estimated Annual Savings – Customer Minutes of Interruption: 1,732, Customer

Interruptions: 27

# Miscellaneous Circuit Improvements to Reduce Recurring Outages

#### **Identified Concerns & Recommendations**

The following concerns were identified based on a review of Tables 10 & 11 of this report; Multiple Tree Related Outages by Street and Multiple Device Operations respectively.

## **Mid-Cycle Forestry Reviews**

The areas identified below experienced three or more tree related outages in 2016. It is recommended that a forestry review of these areas be performed in 2017 in order to identify and address any mid-cycle growth or hazard tree problems.

- C13W3, North Water Street, Boscawen
- C13W1, Morrill Road, Canterbury
- C8X3, New Orchard Road, Epsom

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 2
Page 21 of 21

# **Animal Guard Installation Recommendations**

The area identified below experienced three or more patrolled nothing found / animal outages in 2016. It is recommended that an animal protection review is performed in 2017 in order to identify locations in which animal protection can prevent outages due to animals.

- C8X3, Old Town Road, Epsom
- C18W2, Putney Road, Bow
- C8X3, Hillview Drive, Chichester
- C8X3, Smith Sanborn Road, Chichester
- C13W3, Terrace Hill Road, Boscawen

## Conclusion

During 2015, tree related outages still present the largest problem in the UES-Capital System, compared to other causes. Although compared to previous years, the worst performing circuits have seen a dramatic decrease in Customer Minutes of Interruption from tree related outages. Enhanced tree trimming efforts are still being implemented, which is expected to improve reliability for most of the worst performing circuits identified in this study. Motor Vehicle Accidents have caused about 3 times as many customer minutes of interruption, in 2015, as the two previous years. This cause will be reviewed next year to determine if this elevated level of interruption persists.

Recommendations developed from this study are mainly focused on reducing the impact of multiple permanent outages and improving reliability of the sub transmission system. This report is also intended to assist Unitil Forestry in identifying areas of the system that are being frequently affected by tree related outages to allow proactive measures to be taken. In addition, new ideas and solutions to reliability problems are always being explored in an attempt to provide the most reliable service possible.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3

Attachment 3

**UES - Seacoast** 

Reliability Study 2017

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 1 of 24



# Unitil Energy Systems – Seacoast

# Reliability Study 2017

Prepared By:

Jake Dusling Unitil Service Corp. August 21, 2017

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 2 of 24

# 1 Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to report on the overall reliability performance of the UES-Seacoast system from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The scope of this report will also evaluate individual circuit reliability performance over the same time period.

The following projects are proposed from the results of this study and are focused on improving the worst performing circuits as well as the overall UES-Seacoast system reliability. These recommendations are provided for consideration and will be further developed with the intention to be incorporated into the 2018 budget development process.

Circuit / Line / Substation	Proposed Project	Cost (\$)
13W2	Replace V4L Reclosers and Relocate Downline	\$225,000
19X2/11X1/11X2	Distribution Automation Scheme	\$190,000
43X1	Install Recloser – Exeter Road	\$75,000
3346 Line	Automatic Restoration Scheme	\$160,000
3347 Line Tap	Recloser Replacements	\$125,000
Timberlane S/S	Installation of Motor Operated Switches with SCADA Control	\$30,000

Note: estimates do not include overheads

UES-Seacoast SAIDI was 94.80 minutes in 2016 after removing all Major Event Days. Chart 1 below shows UES-Seacoast SAIDI over the past five years.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 3 of 24

Seacoast SAIDI 2012-2016 (with Exclusions) 200 174.39 180 160 140.16 140 120 106.44 101.1 94.8 100 80 60 40 20 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016

Chart 1
Annual UES-Seacoast SAIDI

# 2 Reliability Goals

The annual corporate system reliability goals and UES-Seacoast reliability goals have been set at 175-143-111 SAIDI minutes and 128.3-110.6-92.9 SAIDI minutes, respectively. These were developed through benchmarking Unitil system performance with surrounding utilities.

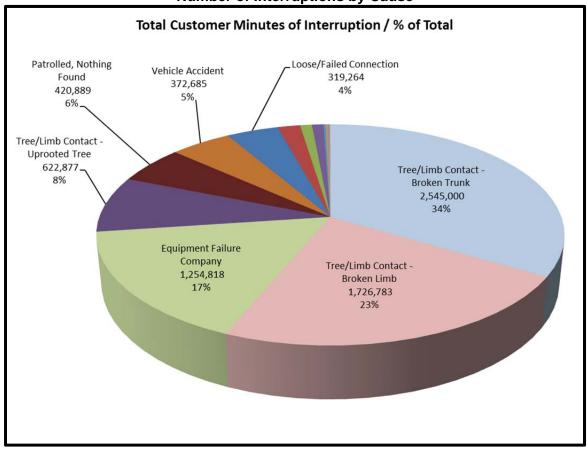
Individual circuits will be analyzed based upon circuit SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI. Analysis of individual circuits along with analysis of the entire Seacoast system is used to identify future capital improvement projects and/or operational enhancements which may be required in order to achieve and maintain these goals.

# 3 Outages by Cause

This section provides a breakdown of all outages by cause code experienced during 2016. Chart 2 lists the number of interruptions due to each cause. For clarity, only those causes occurring more than 10 times are labeled. Chart 3 details the percent of total customerminutes of interruption due to each cause. Only those causes contributing greater than 2% of the total are labeled.

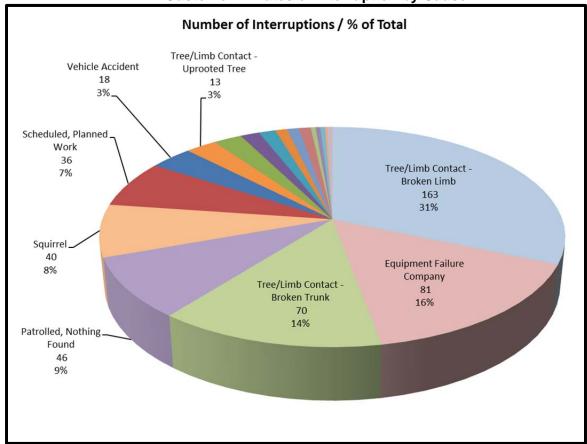
Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 4 of 24

Chart 2
Number of Interruptions by Cause



Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 5 of 24

Chart 3
Customer-Minutes of Interruption by Cause



# 4 10 Worst Distribution Outages

The ten worst distribution outages ranked by customer-minutes of interruption during the time period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 are summarized in Table 1 below.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 6 of 24

Table 1
Worst Ten Distribution Outages

			N C	1150	1150
Circuit	Description (Date/Cause)	No. of Customers Affected	No. of Customer Minutes	UES Seacoast SAIDI (min.)	UES Seacoast SAIFI
7W1	10/31/16 Equipment Failure Company	1,213	451,054	9.69	0.026
3Н3	2/3/16 Equipment Failure Company	1,061	253,091	5.44	0.023
54X1	2/5/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Trunk	1,457	149,755	3.22	0.031
43X1	12/29/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Trunk	1,862	140,053	3.01	0.040
58X1	7/17/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Limb	725	99,071	2.13	0.016
58X1	9/4/16 Vehicle Accident	569	92,557	1.99	0.012
22X1	12/24/16 Patrolled, Nothing Found	1,909	86,064	1.85	0.041
21W2	10/28/16 Patrolled, Nothing Found	692	78,277	1.68	0.015
6W1	8/14/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Limb	362	76,929	1.65	0.008
13W2	6/12/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Trunk	647	68,354	1.47	0.014

Note: This table does not include outages that occurred at substations or on the subtransmission system or outages that occurred during excludable events.

# 5 Subtransmission and Substation Outages

This section describes the contribution of subtransmission line and substation outages on the UES-Seacoast system.

All substation and subtransmission outages ranked by customer-minutes of interruption during the time period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 are summarized in Table 2 below.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 7 of 24

Table 3 shows the circuits that have been affected by subtransmission line and substation outages. The table illustrates the contribution of customer-minutes of interruption for each circuit affected.

In aggregate, subtransmission line and substation outages accounted for 20% of the total customer-minutes of interruption for UES-Seacoast.

> Table 2 **Subtransmission and Substation Outages**

Trouble Location	Description (Date/Cause)	No. of Customers Affected	No. of Customer Minutes	UES Seacoast SAIDI (min.)	UES Seacoast SAIFI
3345 Line	7/23/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Trunk	3,224	499,472	10.73	0.069
3356 Line	2/5/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Trunk	5,776	376,614	8.09	0.124
3343 Line	7/23/16 Tree/Limb Contact – Broken Trunk	3,299	332,900	7.15	0.071
3343 Line	4/5/16 Loose/Failed Connection	3,687 <sup>14</sup>	316,663	6.80	0.079

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 14}$  The 3343 line was in an abnormal configuration at the time of this outage.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 8 of 24

Table 3
Contribution of Subtransmission and Substation Outages

Circuit	Trouble Location	Customer- Minutes of Interruption	% of Total Circuit Minutes	Circuit SAIDI Contribution	Number of Events
13W1		88,090	52.6%	81.72	1
13W2		249,128	39.4%	153.03	1
13X3	3345 Line	33,951	84.5%	144.47	1
5H1	3345 LINE	29,463	89.2%	130.37	1
5H2		70,342	88.0%	160.97	1
5X3		28,497	95.0%	160.10	1
21W1		94,323	39.5%	68.85	1
21W2		96,669	31.0%	66.62	1
56X1	3356 Line	25,480	17.5%	34.81	1
56X2		8,549	14.0%	97.15	1
58X1		151,593	10.2%	68.50	1

**Contribution of Subtransmission and Substation Outages** 

	Contribution of Cubit anomicological and Cubitation Cutages							
Circuit	Trouble Location	Customer- Minutes of Interruption	% of Total Circuit Minutes	Circuit SAIDI Contribution	Number of Events			
27X1		66,608	45.7%	127.85	2			
27X2		68,588	97.6%	164.48	2			
43X1	22421:50	308,177	51.0%	158.04	2			
28X1	3343 Line	71,124	93.5%	140.28	1			
54X1		46,410	22.1%	43.46	1			
54X2		88,655	75.6%	190.25	1			

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 9 of 24

# **6 Worst Performing Circuits**

This section compares the reliability of the worst performing circuits using various performance measures. All circuit reliability data presented in this section includes exclusionary events, subtransmission or substation supply outages unless noted otherwise.

#### 6.1 **Worst Performing Circuits in Past Year (1/1/16 – 12/31/16)**

A summary of the worst performing circuits during the time period between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016 is included in the tables below.

Table 4 shows the ten worst performing circuits ranked by the total number of customer-minutes of interruption. The SAIFI and CAIDI for each circuit are also listed in this table.

Table 5 provides detail on the major causes of the outages on each of these circuits. Customer-minutes of interruption are given for the six most prevalent causes<sup>15</sup>.

Circuits having one outage contributing more than 75% of the customer-minutes of interruptions were excluded from this analysis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Six most prevalent causes determined from UES-Seacoast system wide data, not individual circuit data.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 10 of 24

Table 4
Worst Performing Circuits Ranked by Customer-Minutes

	Worst Forforming Ground Raincea by Gasterner Immates								
Circuit	Customer Interruptions	Worst Event (% of CI)	Cust-Min of Interruption	Worst Event (% of CMI)	SAIDI	SAIFI	CAIDI		
58X1	6,056	36%	1,489,819	36%	673.21	2.737	246.01		
13W2	4,128	39%	632,721	39%	388.65	2.536	153.28		
43X1	7,603	29%	604,154	27%	309.82	3.899	79.46		
23X1	1,825	28%	332,905	56%	350.06	1.919	182.41		
21W2	3,832	37%	311,342	31%	214.57	2.641	81.25		
22X1	4,249	45%	303,736	28%	149.55	2.092	71.48		
6W2	1,555	59%	251,486	39%	274.55	1.698	161.73		
21W1	3,643	38%	238,832	39%	174.33	2.659	65.56		
6W1	1,593	33%	217,101	35%	247.83	1.818	136.28		
54X1	2,021	72%	209,979	71%	196.61	1.892	103.90		

Note: all percentages and indices are calculated on a circuit basis

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 11 of 24

Table 5
Circuit Interruption Analysis by Cause

		Custome	r – Minutes of Inte		utages	
Circuit	Tree/Limb Contact - Broken Trunk	Tree/Limb Contact - Broken Limb	Equipment Failure Company	Tree/Limb Contact - Uprooted Tree	Patrolled, Nothing Found	Vehicle Accident
58X1	567,303 / 12	235,470 / 13	19,947 / 5	539,647 / 2	8,144 / 4	117,758 / 2
13W2	338,903 / 4	269,770 / 15	1,915 / 4	0/0	18,108 / 6	1,425 / 1
43X1	302,426 / 2	50,214 / 10	14,678 / 7	2,139 / 1	3,899 / 1	48,739 / 1
23X1	100,038 / 4	56,161 / 4	0/0	5,839 / 1	9,296 / 1	180 / 1
21W2	99,472 / 3	8,201 / 3	25,025 / 4	30,204 / 2	87,836 /2	34,637 / 1
22X1	83,749 / 5	43,696 / 13	48,629 / 6	0/0	86,064 / 1	41,434 / 2
6W2	2,704 / 1	186,876 / 12	100 / 1	0/0	1,412 / 2	0/0
21W1	94,365 / 2	136,093 / 13	2,386 / 3	0/0	1,498 / 1	0/0
6W1	52,927 / 6	146,284 / 7	52 / 1	375 / 1	540 / 3	6,478 / 1
54X1	149,755 / 1	5,253 / 6	0/0	0/0	8,141 / 1	0/0

# 6.2 Worst Performing Circuits of the Past Five Years (2012 – 2016)

The annual performance of the ten worst circuits in terms of SAIDI and SAIFI for each of the past five years is shown in the tables below. Table 6 lists the ten worst performing circuits ranked by SAIDI and Table 7 lists the ten worst performing circuits ranked by SAIFI.

The data used in this analysis includes all system outages except those outages that occurred during excludable events in 2016, the 3342/3353 Line Outage in 2014 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 12 of 24

# Table 6 Circuit SAIDI

0::	20	16	20	15	20	14	20	13	20	12
Circuit Ranking (1 = worst)	Circuit	SAIDI								
1	3H2	463.53	6W1	429.20	19X3	581.05	6W1	384.28	56X2	590.69
2	7W1	375.29	58X1	371.96	6W1	550.41	27X1	300.82	13W2	556.17
3	3H3	255.03	47X1	362.03	43X1	513.14	47X1	275.19	13W1	383.59
4	54X2	249.35	6W2	306.70	54X1	479.86	18X1	255.15	2X2	376.99
5	6W1	241.11	51X1	201.87	1H3	406.51	21W1	242.80	58X1	339.87
6	43X1	226.55	22X1	172.38	22X1	345.20	13W2	212.92	7X2	317.63
7	21W2	214.57	56X2	138.86	6W2	336.08	59X1	197.65	47X1	297.13
8	17W2	210.69	17W2	136.96	20H1	299.78	22X1	136.57	43X1	296.43
9	58X1	203.82	27X1	126.50	51X1	297.15	15X1	128.33	23X1	292.58
10	54X1	196.61	3W4	97.95	18X1	262.63	43X1	122.34	15X1	263.38

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 13 of 24

# Table 7 Circuit SAIFI

Circuit	20	16	20	15	20	14	20	13	20	12
Ranking (1 = worst)	Circuit	SAIFI								
1	43X1	2.94	47X1	3.82	6W2	4.70	18X1	3.40	56X2	7.39
2	3H2	2.86	22X1	3.22	20H1	4.36	21W1	3.25	13W2	5.77
3	21W2	2.64	6W1	2.87	43X1	4.13	27X1	2.98	23X1	5.69
4	17W2	2.31	51X1	2.51	51X1	3.82	6W1	2.95	43X1	4.22
5	21W1	2.20	58X1	2.35	6W1	3.23	47X1	2.55	6W1	4.06
6	58X1	2.11	2X3	2.18	19X3	3.22	13W2	2.48	13W1	3.92
7	22X1	1.92	17W2	1.86	18X1	2.84	43X1	2.42	15X1	3.89
8	27X1	1.92	13X3	1.47	21W1	2.67	7X2	1.98	59X1	3.64
9	54X1	1.89	13W1	1.44	47X1	2.67	56X1	1.96	21W1	3.20
10	6W1	1.72	21W2	1.43	11X1	2.64	54X1	1.91	58X1	3.13

# 6.3 System Reliability Improvements (2016 and 2017)

Vegetation management projects completed in 2016 and planned for 2017 that are expected to improve the reliability of the 2016 worst performing circuits are included in table 8 below. Table 9 below details electric system upgrades that are scheduled to be completed in 2017 or were completed in 2016 that were performed to improve system reliability.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 14 of 24

Table 8
Vegetation Management Projects on Worst Performing Circ

vegetati	on Managemen	t Projects on Worst Performing Circuits
Circuit(s)	Year of Completion	Project Description
	2017	Planned Reliability Analysis Details
58X1	0040	Hazard Tree Mitigation
	2016	Planned Mid-Cycle Pruning
	2017	Harring Tree Mitigation
13W2	0040	Hazard Tree Mitigation
	2016	Planned Mid-Cycle Pruning
4274	2016	Planned Cycle Pruning
43X1	2016	Hazard Tree Mitigation
21W2	2047	Hazard Tree Mitigation
21002	2017	Planned Mid-Cycle Pruning
22X1	2016	Planned Cycle pruning (Carryover from 2015)
2281	2016	Hazard Tree Mitigation
21W1	2017	Hazard Tree Mitigation
21001	2017	Planned Mid-Cycle Pruning
6W1	2016	Reliability Analysis Details
	2017	Planned Cycle Pruning
54X1	2017	Hazard Tree Mitigation
	2016	Storm Resiliency Program
3H2	2016	Planned Cycle Pruning
7W1	2016	Planned Cycle Pruning
3H3	2016	Planned Cycle Pruning
	2017	Planned Cycle Pruning
54X2	2017	Hazard Tree Mitigation
	2016	Storm Resiliency Program
17W2	2016	Planned Mid-Cycle Pruning
27X1	2016	Hazard Tree Mitigation

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 15 of 24

Circuit(s)	Year of Completion	Project Description
		Planned Mid-Cycle Pruning
	2017	Planned Cycle Pruning
56X1	2017	Hazard Tree Mitigation
	2016	Storm Resiliency Program

Table 9
Electric System Improvements Performed to Improve Reliability

Circuit(s)	Year of Completion	Project Description	Justification
22X1	2017	Relocation of Mainline	2016 DPB Project
47X1	2017	Circuit 47X1 – Install Devices and Implement Pulsefinding Scheme	2017 DRB Project
3343 and 3354 Lines	2017	Replace subtransmission tap switches with motor operated switches and connect to SCADA at Munt Hill Tap, Shaw's Hill Tap, Willow Road Tap, East Kingston substation and New Boston Road Tap	2015 DRB Project
3341, 3352, 3351 and 3362 Lines	2017	Install in-line motor operated switches with automatic sectionalizing and SCADA control and status in the vicinity of Merrill's Pit	2015 DRB Project
54X1	2016	Recloser additions to split circuit 54X1 into two circuits, 54X1 and 54X1	2015 DRB Project
Plaistow Substation	2016		2016 SPN Project

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 16 of 24

# 7 Tree Related Outages in Past Year (1/1/16 – 12/31/16)

This section summarizes the worst performing circuits by tree related outages during the time period between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

Table 10 shows these circuits ranked by the total number of customer-minutes of interruption. The number of customer-interruptions and number of outages are also listed in this table. This table does not include tree related outages on the subtransmission system. Circuits having two or less tree related outages were excluded from this table.

The UES-Seacoast subtransmission system experiences three tree related interruptions that accounted for 12,299 customer interruptions and 1,208,985 customer-minutes of interruption.

All streets on the Seacoast system with three or more tree related outage are shown in table 11 below. The table is sorted by number of outages and customer-minutes of interruption.

Table 10
Worst Performing Circuits – Tree Related Outages

	or remorning end	anto Tree Related Outages			
Circuit	Customer- Minutes of Interruption	Number of Customers Interrupted	No. of Interruptions		
<b>58X1</b> <sup>16</sup>	1,190,827	2,645	26		
13W2 <sup>1</sup>	359,684	2,258	19		
23X1 <sup>17</sup>	323,086	1,449	12		
<b>6W2</b> <sup>2</sup>	247,022	1,471	14		
<b>6W1</b> <sup>1</sup>	199,586	1,402	13		
43X1 <sup>1</sup>	194,447	2,181	14		
54X1 <sup>1</sup>	155,008	1,545	7		
21W1 <sup>1</sup>	136,135	2,189	13		
22X1 <sup>1</sup>	127,445	744	18		
56X1 <sup>1</sup>	119,128	360	4		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Pruning is planned or has been completed on this circuit (refer to table 8 for details)

<sup>17</sup> Refer to section 11 for recommendations in this area.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 17 of 24

Table 11
Tree Related Outages by Street

Circuit	Street	Town	# Outages	Customer-Minutes of Interruption	No. of Customer Interruptions
28X1 <sup>18</sup>	Exeter Rd	Hampton Falls	8	4,081	53
58X1 <sup>19</sup>	South Main St	Plaistow	5	145,147	334
6W21 <sup>1</sup>	North Rd	Kingston	5	68,444	328
13W1 <sup>1</sup>	North Main St	Plaistow	5	12,568	159
58X1 <sup>2</sup>	Forest St	Plaistow	4	317,150	327
23X1 <sup>1</sup>	Mill Lane	Hampton Falls	3	292,979	1,242
13W2 <sup>2</sup>	Pond St	Newton	3	148,983	643
43X1 <sup>2</sup>	Willow Rd	East Kingston	3	140,303	1,864
6W2 <sup>1</sup>	Main St	Kingston	3	102,758	193
22X1 <sup>2</sup>	Long Pond Rd	Danville	3	27,094	137
43X1 <sup>2</sup>	Pickpocket Rd	Exeter	3	26,556	121
17W1 <sup>2</sup>	Cusack Rd	Hampton	3	16,451	149
58X1 <sup>2</sup>	Main St	Atkinson	3	13,022	179
59X1 <sup>2</sup>	Kensington Rd	Hampton Falls	3	10,056	104
59X1 <sup>2</sup>	Crank Rd	Hampton Falls	3	9,551	56
13W2 <sup>2</sup>	Quaker St	Newton	3	7,446	64
51X1 <sup>2</sup>	Winnicut Rd	Stratham	3	4,223	58
23X1 <sup>1</sup>	Woodman Rd	South Hampton	3	4,120	36

# 8 Failed Equipment

This section is intended to clearly show all equipment failures throughout the study period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Chart 3 shows all equipment failures throughout the study period. Chart 4 shows each equipment failure as a percentage of the total failures within this same study period. The number of equipment failures in each of the top three categories of failed equipment for the past five years are shown below in Chart 5.

<sup>18</sup> Refer to section 11 for recommendations in this area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Forestry work was completed on this circuit in 2016 and/or is scheduled on this circuit in 2017.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 18 of 24

Chart 3
Equipment Failure Analysis by Cause

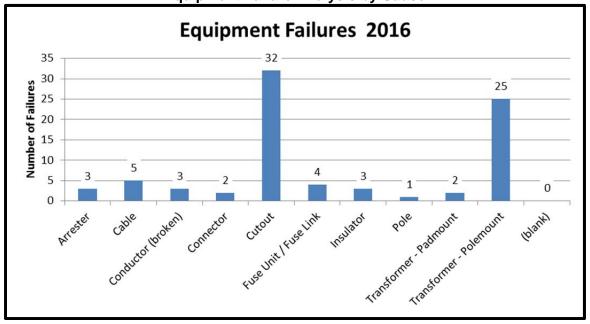
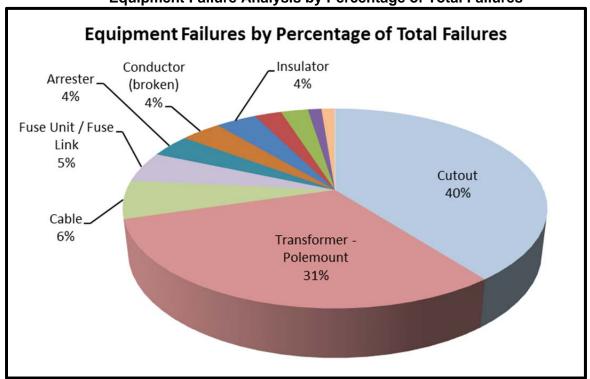


Chart 4
Equipment Failure Analysis by Percentage of Total Failures



Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 19 of 24

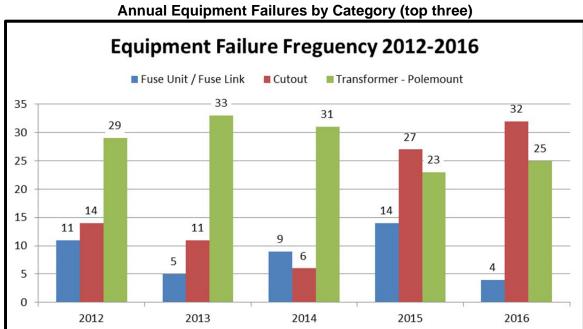


Chart 5

# Multiple Device Operations in Past Year (1/1/16 – 12/31/16)

A summary of the devices that have operated four or more times from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 are included in table 12 below.

> Table 12 **Multiple Device Operations**

Circuit	Number of Operations	Device	Customer- Minutes	Customer- Interruptions
<b>58X1</b> <sup>20</sup>	4	Fuse – Pole 52/28 Main Street, Atkinson	11,202	140
28X1 <sup>1</sup>	4	Fuse – Pole 12/160 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls	387	4
23X1 <sup>21</sup>	4	Recloser – Pole 142/31 Mill Lane, Seabrook	302,276	1,608

080

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Operations and Forestry performed a detailed review of the area and observed good tree clearance. 21 Refer to section 11 for recommendations in this area.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 20 of 24

#### 10 Other Concerns

This section is intended to identify other reliability concerns that would not be identified from the analyses above.

#### 10.1 Recloser Replacements

Power factor testing has identified that the solid dielectric material used for the poles on a specific type/vintage recloser degrades over time leading to premature failure. In follow up discussions with the manufacturer, they acknowledged that the solid dielectric material used for the recloser poles could prematurely degrade resulting in a dielectric failure.

Unitil has experienced two (UES-Seacoast and FG&E) failures of this type/vintage of recloser in 2011 and removed two others from service due to the appearance of tracking.

Based on this information, a multi-year replacement program began in 2013 to replace all reclosers of this vintage. There are currently two reclosers in service on the UES-Seacoast system, both at the 3347 Line tap.

It is recommended that this program continue in 2017.

#### 11 Recommendations

This following section describes recommendations on circuits, sub-transmission lines and substations to improve overall system reliability. The recommendations listed below will be compared to the other proposed reliability projects on a system-wide basis. A cost benefit analysis will determine the priority ranking of projects for the 2017 capital budget. All project costs are shown overheads.

# 11.1 Miscellaneous Circuit Improvements to Reduce Recurring Outages

## 11.1.1 Identified Concerns & Recommendations

The following concerns were identified based on a review of Tables 10 and 11 of this report; Multiple Tree Related Outages by Street and Multiple Device Operations respectively.

# Mid-Cycle Forestry Review

The areas identified below experienced three or more tree related outages in 2016. It is recommended that a forestry review of these areas be performed in 2017 in order to identify and address any mid-cycle growth or hazard tree problems.

- 6W2 North Road, Kingston
- 6W2 Main Street, Kingston
- 23X1 Mill Lane, Seabrook

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 21 of 24

- 28X1 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls
- 13W1 North Main Street, Plaistow
- 23X1 Woodman Road, South Hampton

# 11.2 Circuit 13W2 – Replace V4L Reclosers and Relocate Downline

#### 11.2.1 Identified Concerns

Circuit 13W2 is typically one of the worst performing circuits on the UES-Seacoast system and is the second circuit on the 2016 list.

#### 11.2.2 Recommendation

This project will consist of replacing the two existing sets of 140A V4L reclosers on circuit 13W2 with electronically controlled reclosers. This will allow the existing reclosers to be relocated to Peaslee Crossing Road and Thornell Road. Two additional sets of 100A V4L reclosers will be installed on Highland Street and Pond Street. The existing 13W2 recloser control at Timberlane substation will most likely need to be replaced to accommodate this project.

The new reclosers will benefit approximately 1,100 customers.

- Estimated annual customer-minutes savings = 53,451
- Estimated annual customer-interruption savings = 660

Estimated Project Cost: \$225,000

# Circuit 19X2 – Distribution Automation Scheme with Portsmouth Ave

## 11.3.1 Identified Concerns

11.3

On average one subtransmission outage per year causes an outage to Portsmouth Ave substation or Exeter Switching Station.

Additionally, Portsmouth Ave substation is supplied from the 3347 line, which is a radial line that typically experiences damage during major events.

#### 11.3.2 Recommendation

This project will consist of replacing the 11X2J19X2 tie switch with a recloser and the installation communication infrastructure between the new recloser, the 19X2 recloser at Exeter Switching and Portsmouth Ave substation.

A distribution automation scheme will be implemented that will restore the 1,700 customers on circuits 11X1 and 11X2 via circuit 19X2 for the loss of the 3347 line. Additionally, for a fault on the 3352 or 3362 line the 600

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 22 of 24

customers supplied by circuit 19X2 will automatically be restored via circuit 11X2.

- Estimated annual customer-minutes savings = 64,182
- Estimated annual customer-interruption savings = 792

Estimated Project Cost: \$175,000

#### 11.4 Circuit 43X1 – Recloser Installation

#### 11.4.1 Identified Concerns

Circuit 43X1 was one of the worst performing circuits in 2016 and has been on the worst performing SAIDI circuit list four of the last five years.

A detailed protection review of circuit 43X1 indicated that the installation of a new recloser and relocating the existing 150 QA fuses is expected to improve overall circuit reliability.

## 11.4.2 Recommendation

This project will consist of replacing the 150 QA fuses at pole 55 Exeter Road with an electronically controlled recloser, with the intent of relocating the 150 QA fuses to the vicinity of pole 64 Exeter Road.

The new recloser will benefit approximately 1,400 customers and the new fuse location is expected save approximately 650 customer interruptions per year.

This project is the first step to implanting a distribution automation scheme with circuit 19X3.

- Estimated annual customer-minutes savings = 44,649
- Estimated annual customer-interruption savings = 1,102

Estimated Project Cost: \$75,000

## 11.5 3346 Line – Automatic Restoration Scheme

#### 11.5.1 Identified Concerns

The 3346 line in an unprotected subtransmission tap off the 3342 line with an alternate source of the 3353 line.

## 11.5.2 Recommendation

This project will consist of installing two reclosers at the 3346 line, replacing the 46J42 and 46J53 switches.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 3 Page 23 of 24

An automation scheme would be implemented to automatically restore the 3346 line for loss of the 3342 line.

Additionally, the new reclosers will be set to operate for faults on the 3346 line.

- Estimated annual customer-minutes savings = 59.528
- Estimated annual customer-interruption savings = 1,253

Estimated Project Cost: \$160,000

#### 11.6 **Recloser Replacements**

#### 11.6.1 Identified Concerns

Unitil has experienced premature failures of a specific type/vintage of recloser due to insulation breakdown of the poles.

This will be the final year of a multi-year project to replace the reclosers of the identified type/vintage.

#### 11.6.2 Recommendation

This project will consist of replacing the remaining two reclosers on the UES-Seacoast system.

Two (2) at 3347 Line Tap

Below is a summary of the reliability benefit for this project:

Recloser	Customers of Exposure			
3347A	5,350			
3347B	7,900			

- Estimated annual customer-minutes savings = 104,992
- Estimated annual customer-interruption savings = 1,296

Estimated Project Cost: \$125,000

# Installation of Motor Operated Switches at Substations and Subtransmission

# **11.7.1 Summary**

**Taps** 

11.7

Unitil acquired several motor operated switches in 2014. It was determined that many of these switches would be used to replace the existing manually operated switches that connect substations and distribution taps to the UES-Seacoast subtransmission system.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 3
Page 24 of 24

Reference the document titled Motor Operated Switch Installation – Project Justification, dated February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for additional information.

# 11.7.2 Switches Proposed for Replacement – 2018

Based on the project justification document referenced above the following switches are proposed for replacement in 2018.

Location	Switches to be Replaced	Cost (w/o OH's)	Special Details
Timberlane S/S	J1356 J1345	\$30,000	Pre-Existing SCADA Site
Total	2 Switches	\$30,000	

#### 12 Conclusion

The UES-Seacoast system has been greatly affected by outages involving tree contact and equipment failures A more aggressive tree trimming program began in 2011 and has started to reduce the number and impact of tree related outages.

In 2012 three circuits on the UES-Seacoast benefited from a storm resiliency pruning (SRP) pilot, which consisted of ground to sky trimming and hazard tree removal. Due to the success of this pilot, five additional UES-Seacoast circuits had SRP performed in 2014 and an additional six circuits were completed in 2016.

The recommendations in this report are aimed at reducing the duration and customer impact of outages, improving the reliability of the subtransmission system and mitigating damage to distribution mainlines and subtransmission lines during major events. This report is also intended to assist Unitil Forestry in identifying areas of the system that are being frequently affected by tree related outages to allow proactive measure to be taken.

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. Reliability Enhancement Program Vegetation Management Program Annual Report2017 Attachment 4

# Attachment 4

# Reliability Project Listing 2017 Budget Versus Actual Expenditures

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Reliability Enhancement Program
Vegetation Management Program
Annual Report2017
Attachment 4
Page 1 of 1

# Reliability Project Listing 2017 Budget Versus Actual Expenditures

DOC	Bud #	Description	Auth #	Budgeted	Authorized	Actual Exp.
UES		Circuit 22W3: Install Sectionalizers on				
Capital	DRBC03	Birchdale Road	170139	\$ 10,157.09	\$10,157.09	\$ 9,513.63
UES		Bow Junction Substation: Install an Auto				
Capital	DRBC01	Transfer Scheme		\$139,612.00	_	
UES		Circuit 8X3: Install a Fusesaver on Lane		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Capital	DRBC02	Road		\$ 15,166.00	-	\$ 6.940.59
UES		374 Line: Install an Autosectionalizing				
Capital	DRBC04	Scheme		\$ 67,324.00	_	
	DINDOO!			Ψ 07,02 1.00		
UES	<b>DD0000</b>	375 Line Automatic Sectionalizing at Terrill		<b>A</b>		
Capital	DRCC00	Park		\$160,643.00	-	
UES	DD0040		470400	Φ 0.00	<b>*</b> 470.000.00	A 07 040 07
Capital	DROC13	Substation Reliability Improvements	170166	\$ 0.00	\$172,000.00	\$ 67,649.27
UES		Install 430 ft of conduit and 1/0 Al 35KV				
Capital	DROC15	URD cable	170155	\$ 0.00	\$53,829.36	\$59,298.95
UES		Circuit 47X1 - Install Devices w/				
Seacoast	DRBE01	Pulsefinding	171020	\$413,510.25	\$413,510.25	\$417,850.24
UES						
Capital	DPBC01	Distribution Pole Replacement	170115	\$696,640.08	\$735,136.91	\$753,379.51
UES						
Seacoast	DPBE01	Distribution Pole Replacements	171024	\$653,326.95	\$780,000.00	\$770,796.75