

Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.
Docket No. DE 21-030
DOE Data Requests – Set 6

Date Request Received: 10/07/2021
Request No. Energy 6-17

Date of Response: 10/29/2021
Witness: Sara M. Sankowich

REQUEST:

Reference Sankowich Testimony, Bates 936, stating, “The Company is proposing the continuation of the SRP, which is a companion or complementary program to the VMP.”

- a. Please fully explain the process currently in place during planned/scheduled cycle trimming of a circuit where sections of that circuit, UES’s critical three-phase sections of circuits, are already cleared to the Company’s SRP specifications.
- b. Are previously cleared SRP sections left untouched during normally planned cycle trimming of those circuits?

RESPONSE:

- a. The Company has a process in place for annual cycle pruning of sections of circuits that had previously undergone SRP ground-to-sky pruning. SRP work and cycle pruning work scheduling occurs independently of each other. The Company’s cycle pruning specifications indicate that if greater clearances have been obtained in the past, the contractor is required to re-establish those clearances. This applies to ground to sky clearances that were established as part of the storm resiliency program. The line-clearance contractor is given maps as part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process which include highlighting for previous SRP sections that must be cleared to these greater specifications during maintenance pruning. Normal cycle pruning maintenance work does not however, maintain the extensive and costly level of hazard tree assessment and risk removal equal to that of the SRP. Normal cycle pruning includes hazard tree removal at a greater risk tolerance than SRP (allows more risk), and has a less vigorous (and less time consuming) tree inspection process.
- b. There are not normally any previous SRP sections left untouched during normally planned cycle pruning of those circuits. However, SRP and Cycle Pruning are scheduled on independent criteria, which occasionally created the exception where SRP work and Cycle Pruning work were scheduled for the same year, or Cycle Pruning work was scheduled for the year immediately following SRP work. In that case SRP work is backed out of Cycle Pruning work before work goes out to bid. In all other cases, past SRP sections of cycle pruning are included in pruning for the scheduled cycle pruning year.

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Date Request Received: 10/07/2021
Request No. Energy 6-20

Date of Response: 10/29/2021
Witness: Sara M. Sankowich

REQUEST:

Reference Sankowich Testimony, Bates 946, stating, “In addition, the Company can build upon the initial investment and add further benefit with additional work on poor performing circuits or circuit segments and extension of work sections farther out on a circuit.

- a. Has UES already identified where these areas/circuit are?
 - i. If yes, please list the circuits and miles that the Company has identified for this additional work.

RESPONSE:

- a. The Company has not fully identified these areas/circuits. Unitil is implementing an analysis tool that uses data sources like vegetation management work history and outage management system data that will be able to identify areas of opportunity for SRP work. That tool is scheduled to be completed by year end.