

trim because PSNH's best practice trimming specifications result in the trimming and/or  
2 removal of trees around Verizon's facilities, providing benefits to Verizon.

3 Q. Does PSNH make any recommendations for conditions pertaining to maintenance  
4 trimming?

5 A. Yes. PSNH recommends that a condition be placed on the FairPoint/Verizon transfer of  
6 assets which requires FairPoint to contribute 25% to the total costs associated with the  
7 maintenance trimming of its facilities as well as a 50% contribution for the removal of  
8 trees and limbs that threaten both parties' plant. In addition, PSNH is requesting as a  
9 condition of approval of the transactions proposed in this proceeding that PSNH be  
10 reimbursed by Verizon for the sum of \$506,000 for a portion of the maintenance tree  
11 trimming expense incurred by PSNH during 2006, an expense which PSNH agreed it  
12 would not recover from its customers in the recently-approved rate case settlement  
13 (DE 06-028). This expense represents a portion of the costs for PSNH maintenance  
14 trimming which benefited Verizon's facilities, but which Verizon contributed only a  
15 minimal amount. The reimbursement should be directed to be made by Verizon from the  
16 proceeds it receives in the asset transfer. Maintenance trimming costs should be the  
17 responsibility of the electric customers and the telephone customers in order that they  
18 receive safe and reliable service, not the shareholders of the electric utility.

19 Q. Are utility poles currently inspected and maintained in accordance with the Joint  
20 Ownership Agreement as defined in Inter Company Operating Procedure #6: Inspection  
21 and Treatment of Standing Poles? (Reference IOP #6, dated 10/1/1994)

22 A. Yes. PSNH recently implemented a ground line inspection program whereby we  
23 inspected approximately 10,000 jointly owned poles within our maintenance area in 2006  
24 and plan to inspect approximately 25,000 jointly owned poles within our maintenance  
25 area in 2007. These inspections will be done in accordance with IOP #6 (refer to  
26 Attachment RTH-9). As stated in Verizon's data response to DM 05-172, Staff 1-12

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