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# Memorandum

TO: EVERSOURCE  
FROM: SYNAPSE ENERGY ECONOMICS  
DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2024  
RE: QUESTIONS ABOUT THE X-178 PROJECT

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At the October 23, 2024 Planning Advisory Committee, Eversource presented additional material related to the X-178 line. At the meeting, stakeholders asked several questions of the Eversource representatives related to this project. Eversource responded to several of those questions in a follow-up email dated November 4, 2024. Synapse represents consumer advocates and consumers throughout New England in the NEPOOL stakeholder process to ensure ratepayers receive reliable and affordable energy as we transition to a clean and sustainable grid.<sup>1</sup> Synapse appreciates the company's willingness to engage with stakeholders and responses to questions so far.

Synapse has several outstanding questions:

1. In September 2024, Eversource repaired six structures on the X-178 line and replaced an additional structure on this line after they were identified as needing emergency repairs. Please identify where those structures were on the line and how dispersed they were across the length of the line? Did Eversource identify a precipitating cause for those repairs? What were the costs associated with those repairs? What access and/or environmental protection challenges did Eversource face with that work? How did Eversource accommodate the "uplift" issues when effecting those isolated replacements?
2. Please elaborate on Eversource's evaluation of different conductor options that it considered for the X-178 line, including advanced conductors and other GETS products. What products or conductors did the company consider? When did Eversource evaluate those other products? Why were they rejected?
3. Please elaborate on the "uplift" issue that Eversource has identified related to the X-178 line. How has Eversource addressed this problem on other lines where they have opted to replace only certain structures on the line, leaving other adjacent structures in place? Are there different solutions to address the uplift effect short of replacing adjacent structures? Why are engineering solutions such as adjustments to pole height not appropriate for this project?

Synapse appreciates Eversource's consideration and response to these questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Synapse also represents Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) in the Alternative Resources Sector.