

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Non-Case Discovery
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_070-Q01		
PG&E File Name:	Non-CaseDiscovery_DR_CalAdvocates_070-Q01		
Request Date:	May 24, 2021	Requester DR No.:	070
Date Sent:	June 7, 2021	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Alan Wehrman

QUESTION 01

In PG&E’s 2020 WMP, submitted February 7, 2020, PG&E indicated in Table 2 that it had experienced 1 fatality in 2019 resulting from utility wildfire mitigation initiatives. At the time, PG&E reported no other fatalities in 2018 or 2019.

In PG&E’s 2021 WMP, submitted February 5, 2021, PG&E again indicated, in Table 4, that it had experienced 1 fatality in 2019 resulting from utility wildfire mitigation initiatives. Table 4 specified that this was a contractor fatality. At the time, PG&E reported no other fatalities from 2018 through 2020.

In PG&E’s 2021 WMP Errata, submitted March 17, 2021, PG&E revised Table 4, stating the following:

Table 4 incorrectly stated that there was 1 contractor fatality that occurred related to utility inspection work performed in 2019. There were no contractor fatalities relating to utility inspection work in 2019. However, the 1 contractor fatality was related to vegetation management work performed in Q1 2020.

Cal Advocates requested additional information about this single contractor fatality in Data Request CalAdvocates-PGE-2021WMP-21, Question 2. In PG&E’s response, provided on April 29, 2021, PG&E stated the following:

PG&E disagrees with the assertion that we had an error in our WMP fatality count. In our 2021 WMP, we identified one fatality from 2018-2020, and that number remains the same following the March 17, 2021 errata. However, on March 9, 2021, Cal Advocates issued a data request to PG&E asking for detailed information regarding injuries we identified in Table 5 of the 2021 WMP. In response, we reviewed our records and discovered an inadvertent error regarding the contractor fatality identified in Table 4 of the 2021 WMP. Accordingly, we updated Table 4 to correct the year of the fatality and the type of work being performed when it occurred.

In addition, PG&E stated that the single contractor fatality in question occurred on March 16, 2020. If so, it was not possible for PG&E to report this March 16, 2020 fatality in its 2020 WMP (as a fatality in 2019 or otherwise) since the fatality occurred more than a month after PG&E filed its 2020 WMP on February 7, 2020.

- a) Please provide a complete explanation for the apparent discrepancy outlined above.

- b) Please state once again the number of employee, contractor, and public fatalities that PG&E has experienced associated with wildfire mitigation activities in 2019 and in 2020.
- c) If any of the fatality counts provided in part (b) is different from that reported in PG&E's 2020 WMP, 2021 WMP, and 2021 WMP Errata, provide a detailed explanation of the differing counts.
- d) For each fatality reported and provided in response to part (b), please include the following:
 - i. The date the fatality occurred.
 - ii. Whether the individual was an employee, contractor, or a member of the public.
 - iii. The type of work being performed that led to the fatality.
 - iv. The cause or suspected cause of the fatality.
- e) Please provide all documentation in PG&E's possession associated with all fatalities associated with wildfire mitigation activities in 2019 and 2020. This includes but is not limited to OSHA-issued reports, PG&E reports to and correspondence with OSHA, internal records and correspondence, contractor reports and correspondence, root cause analyses, insurance payments/awards, court filings, and law enforcement reports.

Answer 01

- a) On July 22, 2019, a contractor was performing transmission maintenance work for PG&E when he suffered a fatal fall from a raised structure after a piece of equipment installed by the contractor crew failed (the "2019 fatality"). PG&E identified the 2019 fatality relating to wildfire mitigation activities in Table 2 of the 2020 WMP. It was also identified in Table 5 of the 2020 WMP in the Excel row for Wildfire Safety Inspection Program (WSIP) – Transmission because it involved work on transmission facilities.

On March 16, 2020, a contractor was involved in a fatal off-road utility vehicle accident while performing tree removal work for PG&E (the "2020 fatality").

On February 5, 2021, PG&E submitted our 2021 WMP. In Table 4, we identified the 2019 fatality as a "Fatality due to utility inspection – Contractor." While the inclusion of the data in Table 4 was correct, the 2019 fatality should have been more specifically designated as "Fatality due to other – contractor" given that it occurred during asset *maintenance* instead of an *inspection*. PG&E did not identify the 2020 fatality in the original 2021 WMP filing. PG&E did not identify the 2020 fatality in Table 4 of the original 2021 WMP because the VM team more narrowly interpreted the definition of VM work constituting wildfire mitigation activity.

On March 9, 2021, Cal Advocates issued a data request to PG&E asking for detailed information regarding injuries identified in Table 5 of the 2021 WMP. In response, we reviewed our records regarding the injuries numbered in Table 5, as well as the fatalities reported in Table 4. During the review, the Electric Operations Safety Data and Human Performance ("EOSDHP") team performed a search using

an internal database for the 2019 fatality. The team located the 2019 fatality in the database but decided to remove the 2019 fatality from Table 4 because it did not involve a transmission asset *inspection*, as previously indicated, and it was not clearly related to wildfire mitigation work because it involved asset *maintenance*. Around the same time, the VM Department reviewed information regarding the 2020 fatality and determined that it could be classified as relating to wildfire mitigation activities given the type of VM work (ROW Expansion) being performed. Accordingly, we updated Table 4 to include the 2020 fatality. Any indication by PG&E that the 2019 fatality and the 2020 fatality were related in the March 17, 2021 errata, or subsequent discovery responses, was incorrect and inadvertently based on miscommunications regarding the two fatalities at the time.

On May 24, 2021, Cal Advocates submitted this data request regarding PG&E's various fatality reports. In response to the request, we have reviewed our data sources and confirmed that the 2019 fatality did occur, as originally reported, during transmission maintenance work in the HFTD. We also confirmed that the 2020 fatality was not reported in the original 2021 WMP filing, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, on June 3, 2021, PG&E updated Table 4 to include information regarding both the 2019 and 2020 fatalities as part of our updated 2021 WMP filing in connection with the Revision Notice from the WSD.

- b) As indicated in the updated Table 4 submitted on June 3, 2021 as part of the 2021 WMP Revision Notice process, we experienced one contractor fatality related to wildfire mitigation activities in both 2019 and 2020 for a total of two fatalities.
- c) Please see the response above to subpart (a).
- d) 2019
 - i. July 22, 2019
 - ii. Contractor
 - iii. Transmission maintenance work
 - iv. Equipment failure and fall incident
- 2020
 - i. March 16, 2020
 - ii. Contractor
 - iii. Tree removal work
 - iv. Off-road utility vehicle accident
- e) PG&E objects to this request on the grounds that the request for "all documentation in PG&E's possession" is vague, overbroad, and unduly burdensome. PG&E objects to this request on the grounds that it calls for the disclosure of documents containing personal information in violation of a third party's right to privacy. (See, e.g., Civil Code Section 1798 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6) PG&E objects to this request to the extent that it is not required to produce the requested information for

public inspection except on order of the Commission. (See generally Public Utilities Code section 583.)

Subject to and without waiving these objections, PG&E responds as follows: PG&E will produce incident reports relating to the 2019 and 2020 fatalities to Cal Advocates pursuant to a signed Confidentiality Declaration.

Attachments:

Attachments will be provided by June 9, 2021 per the agreement with CalAdvocates and PG&E