

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans
Rulemaking 18-10-007
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_045-Q08		
PG&E File Name:	WildfireMitigationPlans_DR_CalAdvocates_045-Q08		
Request Date:	March 1, 2021	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2021WMP-11
Date Sent:	March 3, 2021	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Henry Burton

The following questions related to PG&E's 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Update.

QUESTION 08

Regarding PG&E expanding its fuel moisture climatology models,¹

- a. What are the data sources and sampling frequency for these model inputs?
- b. Please provide a description of the Technosylva fuel mapping layer.
- c. How will Technosylva's predictive capabilities be validated?
- d. Does PG&E expect a significant shift in outage producing wind predictions when recalibrating the Outage Producing Winds model for 2021?

ANSWER 08

- a) PG&E has two climatology datasets that have been constructed for Live Fuel Moisture and Dead Fuel Moisture. For Dead Fuel Moisture, PG&E leverages a third-party expert who employs the Nelson Dead Fuel Moisture Model across PG&E's weather climatology to produce dead fuel moisture outputs at 2 x 2 km resolution. For Live Fuel Moisture, PG&E's third-party expert has built a Live Fuel Moisture Model specifically for chamise and manzanita plant species. Observations of live fuel moisture are taken monthly from PG&E's live fuel moisture sampling project. Live fuel moisture samples are also collected from state and federal agencies as well.
- b) The Technosylva fuel mapping layer is an enhanced version of the latest USFS LANDFIRE dataset. When LANDFIRE is released, the imagery is typically a few years out of date. Technosylva was enhanced by incorporating the latest fire scars and new building developments. It was also enhanced with an improved treatment of the wildland urban interface and other areas of concerns in LANDFIRE such as golf courses.
- c) Technosylva is utilizing satellite fire detection data as well as information from the US National Guard FireGuard system to validate model performance.

¹ PG&E WMP p. 79.

- d) We are currently building a new version of the OPW model based on updated wind and outage information (through 2020). We are also testing new model input features, such as vegetation data, to determine if predictive skill can be increased. As this work is still in the exploratory and development phase, we cannot meaningfully respond to this request without speculating.