

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_040-Q02		
PG&E File Name:	WildfireMitigationPlans_DR_CalAdvocates_040-Q02Supp01		
Request Date:	February 19, 2021	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2021WMP-06
Date Sent:	February 24, 2021 (Original) March 5, 2021 (Supplemental 01)	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Alan Wehrman

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

Subject: Mitigation program effectiveness and risk spend efficiency (RSE)

QUESTION 02

P. 315 of PG&E's 2021 WMP describes its Distribution, Transmission, and Substation: Fire Action Schemes and Technology (DTS-FAST) initiative. Per Table PG&E-7.1-3 New or Emerging Technologies on p. 303, this program is projected to cost \$30 million in 2021.

- a. Please explain why PG&E did not estimate an RSE score for DTS-FAST.

ANSWER 02

- a. For new and emerging technologies, due to the uncertainty in the efficacy and cost forecasts, the variability of an RSE value makes estimation unreliable. Given that, PG&E did include some additional SME judgement and assumptions going into the Feb 26th supplementary submission to respond to QR Action PGE-18. Based on the SME judgement at the given time, the RSE value of DTS-FAST is confidential, a potentially cost and risk effective program. However, the deployment of this new technology in 2021 helps PG&E evaluate the actual effectiveness of the program and will be re-assessed when more data is available. PG&E can provide this additional information, but cannot do so in a three-day turn around. PG&E will provide this information as soon as feasible.

ANSWER 02 SUPPLEMENTAL 01

- a. As described in the original response, for new and emerging technologies, due to the uncertainty in the efficacy and cost forecasts, the variability of an RSE value makes estimation difficult. Given that, DTS-FAST aims to reduce the likelihood of ignitions by using fraction-of-a-second technologies to detect objects approaching energized power lines and respond quickly to shut off power before object impact.

With this as a starting assumption of the technology, PG&E expects equipment failure and vegetation caused failures, whether it be distribution or transmission, to be fully mitigated, but discounted to 95% effectiveness. Potential benefits to other drivers were considered but ultimately not included as benefits until more development in the pilot.

The RSE for DTS-FAST ranges from 0.85 to 5, dependent on the pilot deployment and the uncertainty in the technology benefit. Besides the variability above, RSE variation is reflective of the initial deployment on small sections of a distribution circuit to test out this technology and expects to see higher RSE once fully deployed on the entire section of the distribution circuit. Of note, regardless of RSE value, the risk reduction provided per mile is expected to be higher than a typical hardening program and PG&E's investment in technologies are important in the advancement of the grid infrastructure.