

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	WilliamBAbrams_002-Q01		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_WilliamBAbrams_002-Q01		
Request Date:	April 13, 2022	Requester DR No.:	Email Transmittal – 2022WMP DR-02
Date Sent:	April 25, 2022	Requesting Party:	William B. Abrams
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Will Abrams

SUBJECT: PG&E WMP GAP ANALYSIS GIVEN KINCADE FIRE TESTIMONY AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Expert Testimony: Mr. Gary Uboldi, Fire Captain Specialist Peace Officer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection who has investigated over 400 wildfires across his 20+ year career

Testimony Date: February 8, 2022 (See Attachment A: Pre-Trial Transcript)

BACKGROUND TESTIMONY/EVIDENCE:

Pg. 54, line 17-21

“What caught my attention right off the bat was the isolators that were hanging in a vertical fashion off the tower. They were swinging back and forth significantly. I would say seven to eight feet back and forth...”.

Pg. 57, (lines 19-28)

“if we just focus on those vertical insulator strings, did those move to the point where they were perpendicular to their current position? A. Yes. Q. They got all the way to perpendicular? A. They almost all the way to perpendicular. It was violently going out.”

Pg. 58, (lines 13-16)

“I just want to make sure I understand you. And that movement that you observed, was that on just one of those three vertical insulator strings? A. On all three.”

Pg. 59 (lines 4-6)

“I could see them all swinging in unison, and the insulators were swinging in unison with the wind.”

QUESTION 01

- a. How has PG&E mitigated this to ensure that isolators are secured throughout their infrastructure and not swinging and causing sparks and catastrophic wildfires?

- b. Has PG&E made efforts to mitigate the swinging of vertical insulator strings now that this has been identified as a cause of catastrophic wildfire?
- c. What has PG&E changed in terms of their inspections and other mitigation activities to ensure this type of wildfire ignition never happens again?

ANSWER 01

There was no testimony, and there is no evidence, that the swinging of “isolators” or insulators caused sparks or a fire. The referenced testimony was given to show that there were very strong winds on the night of October 23, 2019, which caused conductors and insulators to swing more significantly than normal. The witness testified that he “had never seen wind like that” before. (Tr. 189:7.)

CPUC General Order 95 and PG&E standards set out specific clearance requirements to make sure that when insulators and conductors swing in the wind, as they are designed to do, they do not come into contact with the tower and result in arcing or sparks. The insulators here met applicable clearance requirements.

Subsequent to the Kincade Fire, PG&E issued new guidance that requires open jumpers—jumpers that are electrically connected only at one end—to be cut as short as practicable, typically two to three feet in length. This new guidance would reduce or eliminate the movement of jumpers and any associated insulators. PG&E surveyed its transmission system to identify and remediate open jumpers that were not in compliance with this new guidance. PG&E inspection forms also now ask inspectors whether there are open jumpers present at a structure.