

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	WilliamBAbrams_002-Q32		
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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

Expert Testimony: Mr. Joseph Hemstock, 38 Year as PG&E as Supervisory Inspector, Crew Foreman, Electrical Transmission Supervisor and other lead roles plus 10 years as PG&E consultant

Testimony Date: February 9, 2022 (See Attachment B: Pre-Trial Transcript)

**BACKGROUND TESTIMONY/EVIDENCE:**

Pg. 269 line 26 – Pg. 270 line 14 –

“Q. Can you explain to us how you wash insulators? A. There's several methods. The old style one that I was familiar with, because it was a long time ago, is you would send an apprentice lineman, de-energize the line, ground the line. You would send guys up there and they would take rags and Scotch-Brite and clean the insulators by hand. That was a long time ago, which we did quite a bit of. Then later on we came up, we had to wash -- a way to wash them while they were still energized. In the 90s we ended up with a vehicle that had a boom that would extend out 150 feet, and at the end it has a nozzle that's totally articulating and a huge tank of water, and then we would be able to wash insulators while the line is energized via that truck. And then after that we came upon heliwash and then we started using helicopters to wash the line.”

**QUESTION 32**

- a. Are these “Scotch-Brite and “heliwash” practices still employed for cleaning insulators?
- b. Has this been standardized or do crew supervisors still have discretion of when to wash or replace?

- c. What WMP practices have standardized these practices given the known wildfire risks?

**ANSWER 32**

The insulator washing discussed in the cited testimony occurred “[i]n the 90s,” decades before the ignition of the Kincade Fire. There was no testimony, nor is there evidence, that insulator cleaning contributed to the cause of the Kincade Fire.

PG&E’s current practices for insulator washing are included in its Insulator Cleaning Manual, TD-1257M. The Manual approves three methods for washing insulators on transmission structures. See “WMP-Discovery2022\_DR\_WilliamBAbrams\_002-Q32Atch01.pdf” and “WMP-Discovery2022\_DR\_WilliamBAbrams\_002-Q32Atch02.pdf.” The most common method is pressure washing, which can be conducted by aerial lift truck, production washer, or helicopter. The other two methods are hand cleaning and dry cleaning, which uses a combination of compressed air and a nonconductive, dry, and abrasive cleaning compound.

The Insulator Cleaning Manual includes instruction on the types of contamination experienced by insulators, how to determine the levels of contamination and moisture, and how frequently to clean insulators given the level of contamination and moisture.