

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	OEIS_003-Q03		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_OEIS_003-Q03		
Request Date:	March 4, 2022	Requester DR No.:	OEIS-PG&E-22-003
Date Sent:	March 10, 2022	Requesting Party:	Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Kevin Miller

**SUBJECT: PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC SUBMISSION OF 2022 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN  
MATURITY MODEL ASSESSMENT SURVEY (DOCKET #2022-WMPs)  
Q01-Q04 – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT  
Q05 2022 MATURITY QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 03**

From the Maturity Survey, in Category E (Vegetation Management) it is apparent that PG&E is building a granular, frequently updated inventory (Capability 21) and moving towards using “predictive modeling of vegetation growth” to schedule vegetation inspections (E.II.c). However, PG&E still (and will as of Jan 1, 2023) schedule VM inspections based on annual or periodic schedules (E.II.b) and determine procedures/checklists based on statute and regulatory guidelines only (E.III.b).

- a. Explain why PG&E is developing predictive modeling capabilities for VM (E.II.c) but not using those models to schedule inspections and determine procedures/checklists?
- b. When will predictive modeling be used to schedule inspections and create procedures/checklists?

**ANSWER 03**

- a. PG&E’s vegetation management inspections are performed annually to allow adherence to the annual pruning cycle. Our inspection schedule planning is driven by several elements including historic tree work volume by circuit, environmental considerations (elevation restrictions, limited operating periods), local and/or regulatory commitments, and workflow consistency. PG&E will pursue predictive modeling of its Vegetation Management program to further support risk-informed decision making and planning for programs such as Enhanced vegetation management (EVM), but annual inspections are expected to continue to define the inspection cycle frequency.
- b. Predictive modeling may never fully replace annual scheduled inspections but should continue to further support risk-informed decision making. We utilize historical data to predict our 2022 annual plan volume of work, at the circuit level, not at the tree level. We are hiring a data scientist to explore predictive modelling

for tree growth and tree health. Our future use of this is dependent on the outcome of exploring this predictive modeling.