

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2023
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_003-Q006		
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QUESTION 006

For each WMP initiative listed below, please state how the modeled Wildfire Risk Scores for each circuit or circuit-segment influenced how work in 2022 was sequenced.

- a. EVM
- b. Covered conductor installation
- c. Undergrounding
- d. Distribution pole replacement
- e. Grid sectionalization
- f. Detailed inspections of distribution assets
- g. Detailed inspections of transmission assets
- h. Aerial inspections of distribution assets
- i. Aerial inspections of transmission assets
- j. LiDAR inspections of distribution assets
- k. LiDAR inspections of transmission assets

ANSWER 006

- a. The 2022 EVM Scope of Work was based on the prioritization from the 2021 list of circuit protection zones informed by the EVM Tree Weighed Prioritization barring external factors and leveraging efficiency of bundling where possible.
- b. The circuit segments selected for the installation of covered conductor in the System Hardening program were based on the highest wildfire risk criteria described in response to Question 5(b). To then sequence projects, PG&E assesses the dependencies and readiness of each project based on the stage of the work (e.g., designing/estimating, permit acquisition, construction) to appropriately schedule each individual project, as the development time for each project can vary widely. Once projects are in the construction phase, schedules can continue to evolve based on various factors that impact project execution, including unanticipated weather, material availability, and customer preference of timing of re-connection.

- c. The circuit segments selected for the installation of underground lines in the System Hardening program were based on the highest wildfire risk criteria described in response to Question 5(c). To then sequence projects, PG&E assesses the dependencies and readiness of each project in each stage of the work (e.g., designing/estimating, permit acquisition, land rights acquisition, construction) to appropriately schedule each individual project, as the development time for each project can vary widely. Once projects are in the construction phase, schedules can continue to evolve based on various factors that impact project execution including unanticipated weather, material availability, community limitations (e.g., for road closures), customer preference of timing of re-connection, discovery of hard rock, and/or detection of unmarked existing utility infrastructure.
- d. After the work for 2022 was prioritized based on the process described in Q005, the pole replacement sequencing was determined based on each pole's priority bucket, estimating and material readiness, and crew and clearance availability. Wildfire risk scores were not factors in determining sequencing after prioritization.
- e. For grid sectionalization, Wildfire Risk scores were not factors in determining how work was sequenced.
- f. In 2022, wildfire risk scores were not factors in how distribution ground inspections were sequenced. Inspections were sequenced based on field conditions including physical access, environmental restrictions, permitting constraints and customer refusals.
- g. In 2022, the overhead transmission assets in the work plan for inspection were each labeled with the average wildfire risk of their host circuit for consideration in inspection sequencing. Assets were typically grouped by line for execution efficiency. The sequence prioritization also considered operational field knowledge and constraints, including restricted physical access periods, to inform the schedule for completion.
- h. For overhead distribution aerial pilot inspections, wildfire risk scores for each circuit or circuit-segment did not influence how work in 2022 was sequenced. Sequencing was based on the scheduled ground inspection as well as operational field knowledge and constraints, including restricted physical access periods.
- i. In 2022, the overhead transmission assets in work plan for inspection were each labeled with the average wildfire risk of their host circuit for consideration in inspection sequencing. Assets were typically grouped by line for execution efficiency. The sequence prioritization also considered operational field knowledge and constraints, including restricted physical access periods, to inform the schedule for completion.
- j. PG&E does not have a stand-alone LiDAR distribution inspection program but collects LiDAR data on distribution to support various needs, including flight planning for aerial inspections and engineering analyses, such as pole loading calculations. PG&E did not use the wildfire risk model in 2022 to select locations or sequence LiDAR collection activities.
- k. PG&E does not use risk-informed prioritization for Transmission LiDAR inspections, rather, it inspects 100 percent of the system annually using LiDAR. The Transmission Routine NERC and Non-NERC Inspection cycle consists of a LiDAR

inspection followed by a ground patrol based on LiDAR findings. The LiDAR inspection provides an inventory of potential vegetation for ground patrol, and the results of the ground patrol prescribe the forecasted tree work to comply with state and federal regulations.