

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_017-Q07		
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Request Date:	March 21, 2022	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2022WMP-17
Date Sent:	March 25, 2022	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

QUESTION 07

On November 2, 2021, Cal Advocates staff (and other stakeholders) visited the site of an overhead system hardening project, Diamond Springs 1107. At this site, Cal Advocates discussed the installation of covered conductor with PG&E staff. Cal Advocates was informed that, for this project, new poles with intumescent wrap were being installed.

- a) What factors contribute to PG&E replacing poles during covered conductor installation projects?
- b) Regarding covered conductor projects completed in 2021, approximately what percentage of poles were replaced as part of these projects?
- c) What type(s) of new poles (e.g., wood, wood with intumescent wrap, steel, composite, or concrete) does PG&E currently install when installing covered conductor on distribution circuits? If PG&E uses more than one type of pole, please explain the circumstances and types of projects in which each type is preferred.

ANSWER 07

- a) Factors affecting pole replacement include the requirement for higher class poles to support the additional weight of the covered conductor, taller poles to address the increased sag of the conductor, conditions found with the poles requiring replacement, and associated impacts of relocation of the OH lines.
- b) Approximately 97% of covered conductor projects in 2020 included pole replacements. This does not include additional interest or new poles needed to support relocation of facilities or shortening spans to limit sag, pole height, and pole class. PG&E will supplement this response with 2021 data at a later date.
- c) In HFTD areas, wood with intumescent wrap is used primarily and composite is used where needed. If the pole location is vehicle-accessible, but the life expectancy of a wood pole could be short (e.g., termite damage is present, high decay rates, wetland areas) or if an intumescent-covered pole requires a setting depth that is greater than 1 foot more than the setting depths indicated in PG&E's Standard TD-015203-B006, then PG&E uses a composite pole.