

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_012-Q008		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_012-Q008		
Request Date:	April 6, 2023	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-12
Date Sent:	April 11, 2023	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
DRU Index #:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

The following questions relate to your 2023-2025 WMP submission.

TOPIC: PSPS

QUESTION 008

Regarding Section 9.2.3 (Outline of Tactical and Strategic Decision-Making Protocol for initiating a PSPS/PSPS (Such as Decision Tree)), subsection, "Decision to De-Energize," the WMP p. 780 states in part that "The OIC will determine whether alternatives to de-energization are inadequate..."

- a) Please describe the alternatives to de-energization that are considered.
- b) Please state the basis of PG&E's decision regarding which alternatives to consider.
- c) Please describe how OIC determines whether such alternatives are adequate or inadequate.

ANSWER 008

- a) We consider if alternatives, such as additional vegetation management and disabling automatic reclosers, could adequately reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire thus lowering the need for de-energization. When these measures alone cannot reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in areas within the PSPS scope sufficiently to protect public safety, we will move forward with PSPS.
- b) See response to a).
- c) After alternatives are considered the OIC further evaluates the forecasted high wind speeds and wind gust speeds, which can break and blow vegetation and debris into power lines and blow sparks into dry vegetation, when it's determined these other measures are not adequate alternatives to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and that de-energizing in the areas within the PSPS scope is necessary to protect public safety.

Furthermore, we implemented efforts to mitigate adverse impacts on the customers and communities in areas where power shutoffs were likely. These efforts include:

- Employing granular scoping processes to significantly reduce the public safety impacts of de-energization by de-energizing smaller segments of the grid within

the close confines of the fire-critical weather footprint, rather than de-energizing larger amounts of customers in more populated areas.

- Considering the public safety impacts of de-energizing by reviewing the total count of impacted customers and the impact of potential de-energization upon Medical Baseline customers, critical facilities, and the back-up generation capabilities of critical facilities that pose societal impact risks if de-energized (e.g., critical infrastructure).
- Utilizing temporary generation to energize customers outside of the forecasted risk areas.
- Using sectionalization to narrow the scope and number of customers affected.
- Considering opportunities for islanding, temporary generation, and alternate grid solutions, to reduce and mitigate the number of customers de-energized.
- Reducing the public safety impact of de-energizing some affected communities by using back-up generation to serve critical facilities and customers.
- Providing local Community Resource Centers (CRCs) to support customers in those impacted communities.
- Supporting vulnerable customers through California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) and Community Based Organizations (CBO) resource partners that offered various services to customers impacted by the event.
- Making extensive use of Advanced Notifications and outreach tools to notify impacted customers of the expected de-energization.
- Using an extensive camera, weather station, and satellite weather monitoring network and on-the-ground personnel to collect real-time observations to inform and speed the identification of Weather “All-Clear” times in more precise, smaller areas, to get customers back in service faster.
- Ready and increasing resources for restoration efforts, including use of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to conduct line safety patrols after the Weather “All-Clear”, restoring service to safe lines as quickly as possible subject to operational safety and ability to access equipment for patrol and any needed repairs.