PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans
Rulemaking 18-10-007
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_038-Q08		
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PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Tyler Holzschuh

The following questions and response relate to PG&E's 2021 wildfire mitigation plan (WMP).

QUESTION 08

PG&E wrote in its 2020 WMP that PG&E was "evaluating" lowering its time-current curves to reduce fire risk (p. 5-127). The Wildfire Safety Division wrote in its resolution WSD-011 that to get to a maturity level of one out of four with respect to its protective device settings, utilities should "increase sensitivity of risk reduction elements…during high threat weather conditions" (p. 38 of attachment 2.4). However, PG&E appears not to mention either topics above in its 2021 WMP.

a) Please describe the status and provide the findings of the above-mentioned evaluation referred to in PG&E's 2020 WMP at p. 5-127.

b) Is PG&E still considering changes to time-current curves?

c) Does PG&E currently have any employees assigned to the topic of changing recloser and relay settings outside of re-closing to prevent wildfires? If so, please describe this effort.

RESPONSE 08

a) PG&E piloted the Downed Conductor Detection (DCD) element of two different recloser control manufacturers and determined that this protection element is not reliable enough to utilize for detecting downed conductors.

b) PG&E is piloting the Fast Tripping Schemes (FTS) in conjunction with the Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (REFCLs) pilot project to trip the breakers and recloser on instantaneous element for phase-phase and three phase faults. PG&E will determine a long-term strategy for both REFCL and FTS based on the findings from the pilot project at Calistoga. *See* 2021 WMP. Section 7.3.3.17.4 (discussing REFCL).

c) PG&E's distribution automation group continues to evaluate new protection elements and strategies that can actually minimize ignition risk from a fault condition.