

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_024-Q01		
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Date Sent:	July 22, 2022	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Henry Burton

QUESTION 01

Regarding transmission structures and transmission connecting hardware (“these facilities”):

- a) How does PG&E detect defects in these facilities that may be difficult or impossible to detect using the unaided eye (such as a broken jumper within a steel shoe)?
- b) Does the answer to part (a) of this question differ in HFTD areas, compared to non-HFTD areas?
- c) If the answer to part (b) is yes, please explain the differences.

ANSWER 01

- a) In addition to detailed visual inspections, we utilize drone imagery and inspections to capture views that may be difficult or impossible to view to the unaided eye. For example, the aerial inspection could capture the top of a wood pole which would be impossible to see from the ground. Further information can be found in WMP Section 7.3.4.2. we also inspect transmission facilities with infrared. These inspections can help detect issues that may otherwise be non-visible. More information on infrared can be found in our 2022 WMP, Section 7.3.4.5. Intrusive pole inspections, also called Pole Test and Treat (PT&T), are a way to evaluate in-service wood poles and are conducted on an approximate 10-year cycle for early detection of deterioration. These inspections can be effective in identifying wood poles that need to be replaced before a pole failure, which may result in an ignition event. Intrusive wood pole inspection involves the direct measurement of shell thickness, examination of below grade degradation, and application of preservatives. Intrusive wood pole inspection is a control against premature or unintended failure of wood pole structure due to shell degradation. Further information regarding PT&T can be found in WMP Section 7.3.4.6. we continue to explore additional new and emerging technologies as explained in WMP Section 7.3.4.10. These technologies include ultrasonic pole inspections, corona inspections, and below grade foundation inspections.
- b) The methodology used is the same for both HFTD and non-HFTD areas. However, HFTD areas are typically inspected more frequently. For PT&T, all poles are placed on a ten-year cycle regardless of fire threat tier district.
- c) Please see response to subpart (b) regarding the difference in frequency.