

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2023-2025
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_042-Q007		
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PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

QUESTION 007

Page 24 of PG&E's 2025 WMP Update states that PG&E is adjusting target PS-07 (Reduce PSPS Impacts to Customers) in 2025 downward by 40% to account for a 40% decrease in underground miles.

Does PG&E expect a similar reduction in the number of EPSS customer events mitigated in 2025? Explain your answer.

ANSWER 007

While PG&E anticipates EPSS outage volume would reduce commensurately with reduced overhead line exposure, specific EPSS-related outage targets specifically considering reduced UG work have not been calculated. As risk is the primary driver of PG&E's approach to selecting sites to underground, it is possible portions of a circuit versus the entire circuit may be scoped for undergrounding. As such, portions of the circuit remaining in High Fire Risk Areas (HFRAs) and EPSS buffer areas may continue to be protected by EPSS-capable devices and would be enabled when criteria are met. It is possible a fault may occur downstream of one of these devices when enabled, resulting in an outage impacting downstream customers, regardless of undergrounding status.

If undergrounding were to replace all HFRA and EPSS buffer overhead line exposure of a circuit, the circuit would be removed from EPSS scope which would significantly reduce EPSS enablement. Opportunities for full undergrounding continue to be evaluated during project scoping, focusing on undergrounding in areas where it can be most beneficial in reducing wildfire risk as well as PSPS and EPSS impact reduction for customers and critical facilities.