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

PG&E Data Request No.:	SPD_009-Q002		
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Request Date:	June 2, 2023	Requester DR No.:	SPD_PG&E_2023_009
Date Sent:	June 7, 2023	Requesting Party:	Safety Policy Division
DRU Index #:		Requester:	Kevin Miller

SUBJECT: UNDERGROUNDING, EMERGENCY PLANNING, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ENGAGEMENT

QUESTION 002

On page 645 of its 2023 WMP PG&E states there has been a “Reduced size and duration of PSPS events” and claims "This is an indicator of increased operational maturity, flexibility, and system resilience."

a. Is that claim directed toward PSPS?

b. If yes, is it not at least in part or perhaps implied, that PG&E’s increased operational maturity, flexibility, and resilience is also relying on other processes such as EPSS (fast trip)?

ANSWER 002

a. Yes, the statement is directed towards PSPS.

b. No, EPSS operates independently of PSPS and is based on different criteria and thresholds designed to mitigate hazards and threats that can lead to risk of ignitions and fires under non-PSPS conditions. See PG&E’s 2023 WMP, Section 8.1.8

PSPS indicators of operational maturity, flexibility, and system resilience is based on but not limited to:

Operational Maturity

- Developed procedures in the PSPS decision making process by reviewing information provided by our SMEs and determining when there is an imminent and significant risk of strong winds impacting PG&E assets and a significant risk of large, destructive wildfires should ignition occur (see section 9.2.3 of PG&E’s 2023 WMP).
- Improved our weather forecasting and scoping capabilities by utilizing Catastrophic Fire Probability model which employs 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 (see section 9.2.1 of PG&E’s 2023 WMP).

- Making extensive use of Advanced Notifications and outreach tools to notify impacted customers of the expected de-energization (see section 8.4.4.2 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- 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 (see section 7.3.2.1 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- Readying 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 (see section 7.3.9.5 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- 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 (see section 8.2.2 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- Engage with Public Safety Partners at the state, county, city, and tribal levels throughout our service area on PSPS emergency preparedness efforts (section 8.2.5 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- Providing local Community Resource Centers (CRCs) to support customers in those impacted communities (see section 8.2.2 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).

Flexibility

- Utilizing temporary generation to energize customers outside of the forecasted risk areas (see section 8.1.2.7 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- Reducing the public safety impact of de-energizing some affected communities by using back-up generation to serve critical facilities and customers (see section 8.1.2.7 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- Considering opportunities for islanding, temporary generation, and alternate grid solutions, to reduce and mitigate the number of customers de-energized (see section 8.1.2.7 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- Sectionalizing Devices – Separate the grid into small sections for operational flexibility (see section 8.1.2.11.2 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).

System Resilience

- System Hardening – Stronger poles, covered lines and / or targeted undergrounding (see section 7.3.3 of PG&E's 2023 WMP).
- Enhanced Vegetation Management – Addressing vegetation that poses a higher potential for wildfire risk (see section 8.2.2).