

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_043-Q013		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023-2025_DR_CalAdvocates_043-Q013		
Request Date:	April 12, 2024	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2025WMP-07
Date Sent:	April 17, 2024	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

New Technologies

QUESTION 013

Page 68 of PG&E's 2025 WMP Update states, with regard to the REFCL pilot at the Calistoga substation,

“Although we are committed to continuing this demonstration project, several factors have caused delays in commissioning this program, including equipment failure, extended lead time of equipment, and the need to procure additional equipment to further stabilize the system.”

- a) List and describe each equipment failure that occurred during 2021, 2022, or 2023 and delayed the commissioning of the program.
- b) List and describe each instance of extended lead time that occurred during 2021, 2022, or 2023 and delayed the commissioning of the program.
- c) List and describe PG&E's current needs to procure additional equipment to further stabilize the system.
- d) When does PG&E currently anticipate receiving actionable results from the REFCL pilot at the Calistoga substation?
- e) List each of the efforts PG&E made in 2023 to accelerate the REFCL pilot at the Calistoga substation.
- f) List each of the efforts PG&E plans to make in 2024 to accelerate the REFCL pilot at the Calistoga substation.
- g) List each of the efforts PG&E plans to make in 2025 to accelerate the REFCL pilot at the Calistoga substation.

ANSWER 013

- a) Three equipment failures that occurred during 2021 and 2022 delayed the commissioning of the program:
 - 1) In 2021, a substation voltage regulator failure occurred during a test program;
 - 2) In 2022, a substation grounding transformer failure occurred; and
 - 3) In 2022, a GFN RCC failure occurred.

- b) Three instances of extended lead time occurred during 2021 and 2022 that delayed the commissioning of the program:
 - 1) In 2021 — mobile test resistor for fault testing;
 - 2) In 2021 — replacement substation voltage regulators; and
 - 3) In 2022 — replacement of grounding transformer and RCC.
- c) PG&E has procured a damping resistor to reduce high standing neutral voltage to stabilize the operation of the REFCL system. At this time, we have no plans to procure additional equipment.
- d) PG&E currently anticipates receiving actionable results from the REFCL pilot at the Calistoga substation at the end of 2024.
- e) In order to accelerate the REFCL pilot at the Calistoga substation in 2023, PG&E worked with the supplier to design and supply a damping resistor to reduce neutral voltage. This was necessary due to PG&E observing high standing neutral voltage which could not be reduced even with balancing the ground currents. This forced PG&E to temporarily disable REFCL and work with the supplier for the resistor installation in order to move the project forward.
- f) In order to accelerate the REFCL pilot in 2024, PG&E is installing and testing the damping resistor to allow the REFCL system to be put back into service.
- g) PG&E cannot, at this time, identify discrete efforts that it will make in 2025 to accelerate the REFCL pilot because the 2025 workplan is dependent on the results of the work in 2024, which are still unknown.