

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_008-Q003		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_008-Q003		
Request Date:	March 30, 2023	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-08
Date Sent:	April 5, 2023	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
DRU Index #:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

SUBJECT: 2023-2025 WMP SUBMISSION

QUESTION 003

Regarding the new “VM for Operational Mitigations” described in section 8.2.2.2.3 of PG&E’s WMP, PG&E states:

This is a new transitional program for 2023 stemming from the conclusion of the EVM program. This program is intended to help reduce outages and potential ignitions using a risk-informed, targeted plan to mitigate potential vegetation contacts based on historic vegetation outages on EPSS-enabled circuits. PG&E will initially focus on mitigating potential vegetation contacts in CPZs that have experienced vegetation caused outages. Scope of Work will be developed by using EPSS and historical outage data and vegetation failure from the WDRM v3 risk model. EPSS-enabled devices vegetation outages extent of condition inspections may generate additional tree work.⁶

- a) Please explain what is meant by the term “transitional” in the first sentence.
- b) Please explain what is meant by the sentence “EPSS-enabled devices vegetation outages extent of condition inspections may generate additional tree work.”
- c) When will PG&E develop initial the scope of work for this program?
- d) How frequently will PG&E update the scope of work for this program (e.g., annually or quarterly)?
- e) Please explain PG&E’s methodology for developing the scope of work for this program.
- f) Please explain how PG&E will use EPSS data to contribute to the scope of work for this program.
- g) Please explain how PG&E will use historical outage data to contribute to the scope of work for this program.
- h) Please explain how PG&E will use “vegetation failure from the WDRM v3 risk model” to contribute to the scope of work for this program.

⁶ PG&E’s WMP, p. 528.

ANSWER 003

- a) Our wildfire mitigation capabilities have continued to evolve and mature since 2019. With the conclusion of Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) at the end of 2022, we continue to evolve our Vegetation Management program. The use of 'transitional' for this program represents the evolution of the Vegetation Management program through the introduction of a new program, Vegetation Management for Operational Mitigations (VMOM) program, which is intended to reduce the impacts of more frequent outages caused by the increased sensitivity of EPSS enabled devices.
- b) As part of this program an extent of condition inspection is conducted when the cause of an EPSS enabled outage is determined to be vegetation related. An extent of condition inspection evaluates five spans in all directions from the location of the outage looking for additional trees that may pose a similar risk as the tree that caused the outage. The sentence 'EPSS-enabled devices vegetation outages extent of condition inspections may generate additional tree work' is related to any additional trees that may be identified under this inspection.
- c) The 2023 VMOM Scope of work has been developed and approved on February 23, 2023.
- d) PG&E will develop the scope of work on an annual or as needed basis which will be presented for consideration, review, and approval through our Wildfire Risk Governance Steering Committee.
- e) PG&E utilized VM EPSS-enabled outage data, historical VM outage data, and customer outage impact data.
- f) PG&E will utilize EPSS Outages Extent of Condition (EOC) patrols to identify and generate additional tree work throughout the year. Additionally, EPSS outage data will be utilized in the scope of work development for the following year.
- g) PG&E utilized historical vegetation caused outage data as well as EPSS enabled outage data provided by the EPSS PMO team to refine our CPZ targets for the VMOM program.
- h) The Wildfire Data Risk Model (WDRM) v3 was utilized to prioritize 9 CPZs for the VMOM program.